

Soviet threat to crush new unions in Poland

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Leader said to be in Moscow for talks

Michael Binyon
Sept 28
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In the third week, running in Moscow, the newspaper published only words of article with the pseudonym "for policy statements by Soviet leadership". It said: "enemies of socialism" stepping up their hostile

talk of "Poland's way" different "models of" were only a disguise their attempts to "control the very principles" stepped that basis of the s development since the

g the weekend rumours in Moscow, who were here in 1968 said they had a very good sense of "deja vu". The difference lay in the pace of developments. They were faster in Poland than Czechoslovakia and the Russians were now reacting as they had done around June of 1968.

There have been several further indications in the past few days of Soviet anger with the developments in Poland. Pravda carried a significant ideological article quoting Lenin as saying that trade unions in a socialist state must always be under party leadership.

It sharply critiqued those who argued for so-called free trade unions, independent of the struggle for communism and the general interests of the working class.

Lenin, more than once emphasized that trade unions can only fulfill their role in close cooperation and under the direct leadership of the working class," the paper said.

On the European issue there is a feeling among some senior politicians that a motion could be carried at the party conference on Wednesday and that it could deepen the split inside the party, already involved in controversy over where ultimate control should lie.

The agenda for that day was being described last night as "black Wednesday" because not only will Europe be debated but significant constitutional issues on the election of the leader, mandatory resignation of Labour MPs and who should exercise ultimate control on the drawing up of the election manifesto.

Mr James Callaghan, who may be attending his last conference as leader, could be handing over to his successor a party in total disarray on the European issue. His views on whether he will retire will not be made known at the conference but will be announced when Parliament reassembles.

The decision of the national executive was announced last night at a pre-conference meeting.

It came after an indication from Mrs Williams that she may leave the party if it was committed to withdrawal. In a television interview she said that others would follow her.

Mr Callaghan told his executive that the issue of the EEC will have to be settled by the party, but this year was not the time for the question to be answered.

Some pro-European complained bitterly last night that the decision was another demonstration of arm-twisting on the moderate faction by the left-dominated national executive.

The executive approved with

itself over the of

Portuguese poll clash

Dr Francisco da Cunha, the Portuguese Prime Minister, opened the last phase of the country's general election campaign by making an attack on President

and his political and military group.

for their stand on agricultural land.

in Madrid are contradicting over the safety of the city's as many residents suffer from and upset stomachs. City officials say Madrid's water is with coliform organisms, phosphates and ammonia, and should before drinking, while the Ministry says it is safe.

Page 6

Baghdad's massed forces poised outside burning city to wipe out last pockets of Iranian resistance

Iraqis bombard Khorramshahr

From Robert Fisk
Outside Khorramshahr,
Iran, Sept 28

With hundreds of Soviet-built tanks and artillery pieces spread out over the desert less than a mile west of Khorramshahr, the Iraqi Army today prepared to wipe out the last Iranian defenders of the city and capture the still-smouldering oil refinery at Abadan.

A cheerful and moustachioed Iraqi Army major announced this optimistic objective just after 5.30 am as he stood before a small Iranian barracks built and decorated with pictures of Ayatollah Khomeini. "Today," he said, "we advanced into Khorramshahr."

In its intention, at least, the Iraqi Army was as good as its word. A little after 10 am, long-barrelled guns began to fire into Khorramshahr, shaking the desert sand and sending up blisters of white smoke over the distant city. I could see it burn slowly through a sergeant's binoculars, although the place

seemed so small on its hilltop that one could only wonder why the Iraqis needed so huge a force to subdue it.

For the Iraqi Army's southern Iranian frontier is a series of T-52 tanks, radar-controlled anti-aircraft guns and heavy artillery, backed by hundreds of transport trucks, mobile communications centres and command bunkers dug into the sand. The spectacular panorama of the mechanized force stretched across the grey-brown terrain would jog the memories of the Desert Rats who fought at El Alamein, an impression given added import by the mechanized force's proximity to the Iraqi Army's rear.

Indeed, the same bouncy major who talked of the great advance this morning, conceded that there was much resistance in Khorramshahr. The civilian population was in fact evacuated three days ago and the town is empty except for Iranian snipers and mortar positions, few enough, it seems, to allow exaggerated claims of victory by the Iraqis but sufficient to enrage the Iranian population.

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Continued on page 6, col 4

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Continued on page 6, col 4

"He achieved nothing," said

President Zia finds Tehran intent on continuing its fight

Tehran, Sept 28—President

Zia ul-Haq of Pakistan left here

for Baghdad today after the

first leg of a goodwill mission

to Iran, which is still

seen as having achieved

little, even in terms of its own

expectations.

General Zia, chosen by the

Muslim world to take the first

steps towards ending the Iran-

Iraq war, emphasized that he

came to hear the Iranian point

of view, not to mediate. "Iran

is still in a revolutionary stage

and when conciliation and

mediation do not work," he said

in an interview before leaving.

Iranian officials were less

diplomatic in assessing the

results of General Zia's 24-hour

visit, in which he twice met

President Abolhassan Banisadr

and conferred with Mr Yassir

Arafat, the Palestinian leader,

who is carrying out his own

unofficial peace mission.

"He achieved nothing," said

a presidential aide. "It was

nice of him to come, but we

are going to fight on until the

last Iraqi soldier is off Iranian

soil."

The Pakistani leader des-

cribed the mood in Tehran as

confident and uncooperative,

and he was impressed with the

disciplined atmosphere.

When President Zia arrived

in Amman tonight, on his way

to Baghdad, he was greeted at

the airport by King Hussein of

Jordan.

The two leaders held talks

at the airport, and officials

there said that President Zia

was expected to fly to the

Irqi capital tomorrow. Before

addressing the United Nations

General Assembly on Wednes-

day, he is due to visit Paris for

talks with President Giscard

d'Estaing.—Reuter.

Photograph, Security Council

peace call, Air strikes continue

and map, page 6

British film has rough passage to India

From Trevor Flockhart

Delhi, Sept 28

Sir Richard Attenborough comes to India soon to shoot the film he has wanted to make for 18 years, a life of Mahatma Gandhi, but his project has aroused fierce controversy.

The big Indian film industry has its share of jealousy and poutulence, so it is not surprising that in the dispute over Sir Richard's film there are wounded feelings, chauvinism and sour grapes.

To some people, the idea of a film about Gandhi verges on the preposterous; others doubt the ability of any filmmaker to portray such an extraordinary life satisfactorily. They point out that the last film made about Gandhi (Mark Robson's *Nine Hours to Rama*) is still banned in India.

There is considerable annoyance that the film is being made by a foreigner and Sir Richard's previous films and his record as a director have been criticized.

But great ire is reserved for the fact that he is partly financed by the Indian Government. Of his £5m budget, £2.7m is being provided by the National Film Development Corporation, and the Government will have a share in the profits.

There has been strong objection from the film world to the decision to subsidize a film made by a foreigner, "when (the Government) are in a niggardly state of mind to develop quality films and to build low-cost cinemas houses in the country."

A leading film director says that it was a scandal that while Indian producers were not even given a few hundred thousand rupees to make a picture, a foreigner is given tens of millions for this purpose.

The *Hindustan Times* asks in a feature on the issue today: "Does India, an industrial giant almost alone in nuclear technology, have to turn to a little-known British producer to make a film on the greatest of its heroes? Or was Gandhi such a universal human being that if a British devotee offers to make an extravagant film biography of him, he deserves government support?"

One critic writes: "So the Mahatma is being turned into a superstar... the Government is behaving as if it is a great honour for us that Sir Richard is directing the film... Will the British Government provide funds if some Indian filmmaker were to make a film on Churchill?"

He demands to know how Sir Richard will deal with Gandhi's controversial attitude to the partition of India and Pakistan, and his practice of sleeping naked on the same bed with young girls to test his vows of celibacy.

Supporters of Sir Richard say he is the right man for a difficult job and that since he conceived the idea in 1963 he has immersed himself in the subject.

Sir Richard says that the script has been approved by Mrs Indira Gandhi the Prime Minister, and by several specialists on Gandhi.

His film will be shot almost entirely in India and should be released in 1982.



Mr Ray Clark, the boxing board's secretary, said that the board would meet on Wednesday night with the promoters of the show, Mr Harry Levene and Mr Mickey Duff.

Mr Duff said that the trouble was caused by about 30 hooligans in the capacity 10,000 crowd, some of whom booed the American national anthem. Hagler and his cornermen had to be bundled out by the police when the barrage started and a man jumped into the ring to attack the new champion.

But Hagler and his party, who had bad their car windscreen smashed by four hooligans, said they would not box in Britain again and that many Americans would also stay away.

Report, page 8



Herr Gundolf Köhler: the suspected bomber.

organization with 100 members, he has been arrested in connection with Friday's Munich bomb attack in which 12 people, including a Briton, were killed, and 211 injured. Dr Kurt Rehmann, the Federal Prosecutor, said today.

Another member of the group, Herr Gundolf Köhler, aged 21, a geology student, was among the dead. He is believed to have planted the bomb, Dr Rehmann said in Karlsruhe.

The homes of between 20 and 30 members of the group were searched and 2lb of explosives and grenades, a mine and material for making bombs was found in one. Dr Rehmann said that other members of the group were captured at the border attempting to cross into Austria.

The group, called the Wehrsportgruppe (military sports group), was banned in January this year. Herr Gerhard Baum, the Interior Minister, said at the time that it was inspired by Hitler and aimed at overthrowing democracy by violence and setting up a totalitarian state.

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The group, called the Wehr

LABOUR PARTY/BLACKPOOL



Mr James Callaghan and his wife relaxing in Blackpool yesterday with their daughter, Mrs Julia Hubbard, and their grandchildren.

Unions set to defeat Mr Callaghan over reselection of MPs

From Paul Routledge

Trade union block votes were stacked up last night to defeat Mr James Callaghan, Labour Party leader, on the issue of mandatory 'reselection' of MPs by their constituency parties. But the future of two other left-wing constitutional reforms, the election of the party leader and the final say on the manifesto, was still in the balance.

At issue also is the rule which prohibits issues on the agenda this week being discussed for three years, which the unions seem ready to reintroduce against the wishes of the party's left-wing national executive.

That move could have far-reaching consequences if the party conference votes, as quick calculations by union leaders suggest it will, against changing the method of electing the leader and writing the manifesto.

If reinstated, the "three-year rule" would mean that the constitutional controversy would be postponed beyond the next general election, leaving the Parliamentary Labour Party to choose the leader who will take the party to the country.

It would take an emergency motion tabled by a Labour-left-wing figure of the standing of Mr David Basnett, secretary of the General and Municipal

Workers Union, to reimpose the three-year ban immediately, and informal soundings on such a tactic were in progress last night.

The Transport and General Workers' Union, with a 1,250,000 member vote, yesterday reaffirmed its commitment to the left-wing reforms to change the party constitution, but the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, with 928,000 votes, confirmed its commitment to the right.

The engineering union's leaders made clear they were last night planning to recall a meeting of their delegation to reverse a mistake which may have ended left-wing domination of the Labour Party national executive committee another year.

Delegates of the dominant engineering section of the union, which has a 928,000-strong block vote at the party conference, decided by 18 votes to 17 to back left-wingers in tomorrow's NEC elections.

The decision, blamed by embarrassed AUEW leaders on the erroneous vote of one of their moderate supporters, means that the national executive may continue to have a 17-12 left-wing majority.

Mr D. A. Knott of Portland, Dorset, was identified by Sir John Boyd, the union's general secretary, as the moderate delegate who failed to identify the

Courting the votes, page 12

Decision on choosing the leader

From Our Political Correspondent

The chance of Mr Denis Healey, the former Chancellor succeeding to the leadership of the Labour Party when Mr James Callaghan retires could be seriously affected by a decision to be taken by the party conference this week.

The leader is elected by the Labour MP's present. But at yesterday's meeting of the national executive committee it was decided to recommend the conference to accept the principle that the party leader and the deputy leader should in future be elected "by the party as a whole".

If it is decided to settle the matter this year, the conference will choose one of three options. The first would be that the leader would be elected by the annual conference; the second involves election by an electoral college consisting as to half of trade union representatives, a quarter, the Parliamentary Labour Party, and a quarter the constituency Labour parties; and the third method, which is supported by the left-wing Tribune Group, would be an electoral college made up as to a third each of trade union representatives, third the Parliamentary Labour Party and the constituency parties.

Without greater influence over party constitutional reforms, issues of political moment that have dominated previous conferences have gone almost unnoticed.

Tribune Group speakers disagree over composition of electoral college

From George Clark

Political Correspondent

The fatal flaw in the Labour left-wing demand for a new system of electing the party leader and making Mr James Callaghan and all Labour MPs more accountable to the party at large was highlighted at a meeting of the Tribune Group at Blackpool yesterday.

There was clear agreement among speakers that the election should no longer be solely in the hands of Labour MPs, but it was obvious that there was no agreement on the left about the composition of an electoral college representing all sections.

Because of left-wingers' fears that Mr Callaghan and his supporters might muster sufficient trade union block votes to preserve the status quo, Tribune speakers urged delegates at least to vote for the principle of changing the system.

Delegates will be asked to vote for or against the proposition that the next Labour general election manifesto should give withdrawal priority.

Mr Peter Shore, Labour's foreign affairs spokesman, yesterday argued that a Labour government, as a prelude to any negotiations with Britain's EEC partners, should legislate for the return of sovereignty to Parliament, thus restoring the supremacy of United Kingdom law.

Mr Shore, who was addressing a Labour Common Market Safeguards Committee meeting in Blackpool, said that while Labour must be ready for withdrawal, "it would be wrong simply to assume it is foolish indeed to act upon it", until the next approach is either succeeded or failed.

The conference opens this morning with a debate on unemployment and moves this afternoon to education. Tomorrow there will be resolutions on the National Health Service and social services, in the afternoon the first part of a debate on the report of the party's commission of inquiry.

On Wednesday, resolutions on the EEC will be taken and in the afternoon the conference will decide reselection of MPs, the election of the party leader, and constitutional amendments.

Left's only way, page 12
Leading article, page 13

Editor calls for unity to save free, varied press

From Bernard Widmer

Fleet Street was on the verge of a crisis that could be destructive of jobs, of newspapers and of a part of the country's free flow of information. Mr William Rees-Mogg, editor of *The Times*, told a meeting of the Labour Party's newspaper group at Blackpool yesterday.

"We need to forget the long quarrels of the past, to get together to preserve the free and varied press of Britain, and to do it in such a way that it becomes possible to widen and increase the number of publications," he said.

That would lead to higher productivity and an increase rather than a decrease in the number of jobs in the industry. Greater unity was needed in the trade unions involved and between the publishers.

"We need to get more unity between the different publishers so that they do not sit around complacently hoping that somebody else's throat will be cut before their turn comes.

We need to sit down and reason together on how we can preserve an industry which is of

vital importance, faults though it has, to the future democratic development of Britain."

"All of us would feel that what we need to have is more newspapers rather than fewer, more opportunities for expression of different views rather than limitation, more freedom of expression rather than a reduction of freedom of expression into a small and narrow monopoly group."

Of the 18 Fleet Street newspapers, including two London evening papers, at least eight were making severe financial losses. Most of the eight were in some measure of risk of not being able to survive many years into the 1980s.

Most of those newspapers contributed to the national democracy and to the flow of information. "I would fight for their survival," he said.

Newspapers could not, and did not expect to be exempt from the general conditions of industry. But the industry had made a failure of its affairs.

"As a result, we are operating on obsolete equipment. We have poor industrial relations. We have suspicion and antagonism between people working for

Election of Cabinet next step, MP says

From Hugh Noyes

Leaders of the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy made clear in Blackpool yesterday that the three constitutional reforms over which the various wings of the party are expected to baffle this week would, if carried, be only the beginning of a much wider programme of restrictions on Labour MPs.

The three issues before the annual conference, starting today, concern who should elect the party leader, who should have the final decision on the general election manifesto, and whether MPs should submit themselves for reselection by their constituency parties during the course of every Parliament.

But Mr Dennis Skinner, MP for Bolsover and one of the campaign's most vigorous supporters, told a "mobilization rally" yesterday that those changes were only the beginning. Among other reforms to be pressed for later, he said, would be the election of a Labour cabinet rather than one chosen by the party leader as at present.

In a fiery speech to about 700 delegates in Blackpool's Winter Gardens, Mr Skinner left no doubt that, win or lose this week, the battle for constitutional reform, which has been raging within the party for many years and at many conferences, would not be ended.

Referring to Labour MPs, Mr Skinner told the meeting, to loud applause: "We want these people to represent their class interest and not this bogus national interest that we hear so much about. I want people in Parliament who are dedicated to carrying out that class interest."

Mr Wedgwood Benn, former Secretary of State for Energy and another of the campaign's leaders, claimed at the meeting that if there was an individual vote this week at which all the trade union and constituency delegates could vote for themselves on the three reforms, they would be carried by overwhelming majorities.

Mr Benn said that unless the party could achieve real accountability to its members, it would degenerate into a fan club for parliamentarians.

While urging delegates not to indulge in attacks on personalities, Mr Benn said the choice for the party was whether it wanted power to be decentralized by its parliamentary leaders or by its rank and file members.

Without greater influence over the manifesto, over Labour MPs and the Labour leadership who were there to carry it out, Mr Benn said the rights of trade unions could be and had been set aside by Labour governments.

No trade union, he concluded, would allow its leadership to treat its conference decisions in such a manner. Whatever happened this week, those democratic reforms were going to be made within the party.

Referring to the two main proposals for the electoral college mentioned by Mr Skinner, Mr Race commented: "If either were carried, it would be a major victory for democratic control". He dismissed the Leeds, South, proposal that half of the votes should go to the parliamentary party, a quarter to the unions, and a quarter to the constituency parties. "That would be a total sellout to the PLP", he said.

Mr Tom Litterick, another former Labour MP, criticized the method of election which would give the unions the biggest say. Most of the larger unions ran on principles somewhat less than democratic. "Some of these guys make the Politburo look liberal", he said. A parallel was drawn at the meeting between the idea that if Mr Callaghan succeeded in preserving the status quo and then resigned, Mr Denis Healey, the former Chancellor, would be the next leader.

The leaflet, circulated by the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy, said: "Denis Healey's record... speaks for itself. It is an indictment of the PLP that such a figure should emerge as the front runner for the leadership."

Mr Callaghan reads lesson

Mr James Callaghan, Leader of the Opposition, attended the morning service at North Shore Methodist Church, Blackpool, yesterday, as delegates to the Labour conference congregated.

Mr Callaghan read one lesson

and Mr Frederick Mulley, former Secretary of State for Defence, and MP for Sheffield, Park, read the other.

HOME NEWS

Union forecasts jobless total of 2,250,000 by next summer

By Donald Macintyre

Labour Reporter

The number of adults registered as unemployed in the United Kingdom will rise to 2,250,000 by next summer, according to a forecast published today by the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs.

The union, which has long

argued that official figures mask the true scale of unemployment by excluding those who do not register, says in its quarterly

economic review that "real" adult unemployment will have reached 2,900,000 by next July.

The forecast, which would mean in the public sector and the Confederation of British Industry in the private, "thus seems most unlikely to set the trend".

According to the Government's

forecasting within its own terms

the review claims that even if the interest rate fell by 2 per cent it would still be too high to stimulate investment or to

to restore the competitiveness of goods produced in the United Kingdom.

The association says: "Quite clearly the dogma of monetarist policies is merely concealing good, old-fashioned Tory economic policies as practised before the Second World War".

About 25 per cent of employers expect to cut back staff in the next three months compared with only 12 per cent who expect to recruit new employees, according to a survey published today by Manpower Ltd, a firm of labour contrac-

ment in the public sector and the Confederation of British Industry in the private, "thus seems most unlikely to set the trend".

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the review claims that even if the interest rate fell by 2 per cent it would still be too high to stimulate investment or to

to restore the competitiveness of goods produced in the United Kingdom.

Manpower, who claim the forecasts have been "80 per cent accurate" since first introduced in 1966, say that while job prospects in manufacturing are at an "all time low the worst area is the pub-

lic sector".

According to the survey, per cent of public sector em-

ployers expect to reduce

their staff in the next three months

compared with only 12 per cent

who expect to recruit new em-

ployees.

Manpower say the pay round

Teachers' union boycotts new advisory body

The Advisory Committee on

Teachers is to meet in London for the first time today but the National Union of Teachers will not be there.

The executive of the biggest

teachers' union has decided to

boycott meetings of the govern-

ment-established body because of

disagreements over the num-

ber of places it should have on

the committee.

The NUT thinks it is entitled to at least four of the 25 places

but Mr Mark Carlisle, Secre-

tary of State for Education and

Science, will let it have only

two.

The NUT wants to know why so many places have been given to the local authorities.

Teacher qualifications: Profes-

sor J. Hosney, head of school

education at Leicester Poly-

technic, told a National Council

for Education Standards con-

ference in London yesterday

that reclassification was needed

every five or 10 years to force

teachers to update their qualifi-

cations.

The committee is under the

chairmanship of Dr Clifford

Butler, Vice-Chancellor of

Loughborough University.

The Association of County

Councils, with five seats, and

the Association of Metropoli-

tan Authorities, with four, have

one place. The four other school

based unions have one place

each. The remaining places go

to the two college unions,

the NUT, and the two church associa-

tions.

The move comes after accusa-</

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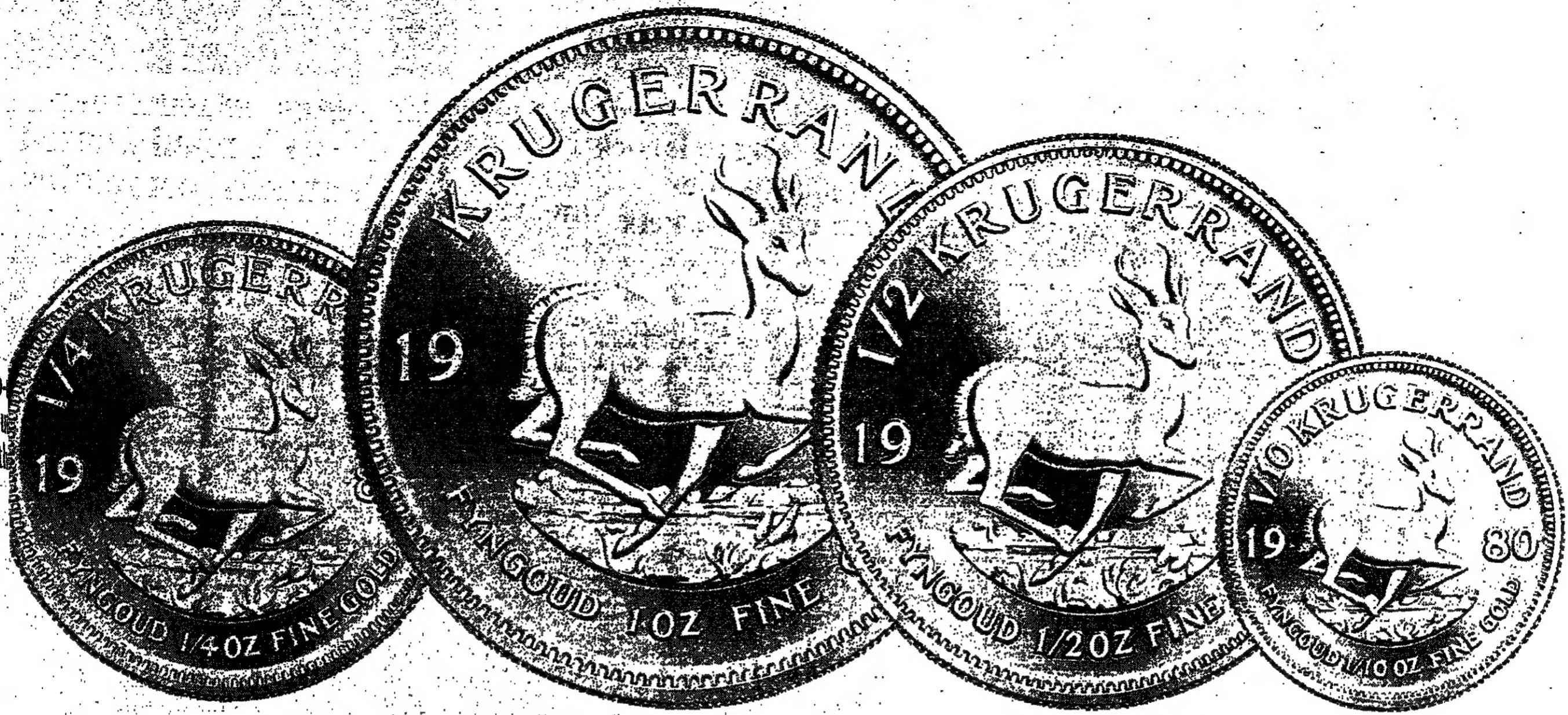
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HOME NEWS



The line-up for 1,150 entrants in The Sunday Times National Fun Run section for men aged 41 to 49 in Hyde Park, London, yesterday. In all, 18,000 people took part in the events.

Photograph by Harry Keay

Births induced in hospital with high baby deaths, committee alleges

From Our Correspondent

Belfast
Childbirths are being induced to occur on two days each week at the Northern Ireland's main hospitals, a district health committee has alleged. The hospital is at the centre of the area with Western Europe's highest incidence of perinatal deaths.

The drug Oxytocin has been used to induce labour among expectant mothers at the Erne Hospital, in Enniskillen, for at least six years, the Fermanagh district committee of Northern Ireland's Western Health and Social Services Board says.

The drug is suspected of causing breathing difficulties for the newly born and increasing the susceptibility of jaundice.

It is the Erne Hospital's policy to admit expectant mothers about a week before their children are due and artificially to induce birth to occur between 8 am and 8 pm on Mondays and Thursdays, except in those cases where labour begins prematurely and naturally, the committee says.

Members of the committee, who say they are refused information by the medical authorities, are asking whether there is a link between the

perinatal death statistics and the policy at Fermanagh's chief hospital.

The controversy about the maternity practices there, Mr Flanagan said.

In the absence of official figures on induced births, another committee member, Councillor James Lunny, says that the district pattern of birth only emerged, and Thursdays only on Mondays and Tuesdays, of premature deliveries.

Calling it "factory production" of babies, Mr Lunny said that no mother could have a birth induced without her consent. "But what can an ordinary woman say against medical advice?"

"About two years ago, the committee asked for a consultation with the chief obstetrician. Instead the western district sent us an aneasisthetist, who told us bluntly that it was none of our business.

"We want four simple questions answered by the authorities", Mr Flanagan said. "Do women have free choice at the Erne? Can they refuse induction? If there are no medical grounds for it and a woman refuses, can she still have her baby at the hospital? Can the use of Oxytocin lead to problems?"

"We are not questioning the

medical competence of the hospital staff but we want an independent inquiry into the maternity practices there," Mr Flanagan said.

The controversy came to a head at this month's meeting of the committee when administrative staff failed to produce statistics on the numbers of induced births which had been requested and promised at the committee's meeting in August.

The hospital would not give us the figures. We have been told politely to mind our own business and leave it to the medical experts. The practice of inducing birth at the Erne is extensive and totally unnatural", Mr Eamon Flanagan, a member of the committee, said.

He has been pressing for statistics for the past six years since his wife, Rosemary had the birth of her third child induced.

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In the absence of official figures on induced births, another committee member, Councillor James Lunny, says that the district pattern of birth only emerged, and Thursdays only on Mondays and Tuesdays, of premature deliveries.

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"We are not questioning the

TUC is preparing to launch an equal opportunities charter for black workers

By Lucy Hodges

The TUC is expected to launch, early next year, a charter for black workers, which will include an equal opportunities clause.

The project is seen as an important initiative in race relations. It shows the TUC's interest in demonstrating to trade unions and blacks that it is concerned about the subject.

The charter is likely to appear as a leaflet for mass distribution, by unions and trade councils. It will be translated into the main ethnic minority languages and will be launched at a national press conference and at regional centres throughout the country where there are large concentrations of blacks.

This year the TUC's race relations advisory committee has been meeting some of the biggest immigrants' groups, and a main point to emerge is that they were unaware of what the TUC is trying to do about race relations. In fact, they thought it was doing nothing.

To some extent that reflects the rather slow development of the TUC's stand on race relations and employment, in contrast with its work on woman employees. It was not until the mid-1970s that a committee was established to tackle the issue.

A model equal opportunities clause was drawn up for unions to include in national agreements, but a survey last year found that only 17 of 106 unions had done so.

The clause will be a main feature of the charter. If adopted on the shopfloor it will mean that companies have to make special efforts to recruit, train and promote black workers, and monitoring to ensure that its provisions are carried out.

The TUC aims to give a firm lead to unions to combat racism in their ranks as well as at the workplace.

A confidential document prepared for the race relations advisory committee says: "All opinion polls among members of ethnic minorities indicate that racial discrimination is apparently more frequently encountered in the field of employment". Relatively few union office holders were from ethnic minorities.

The TUC is exploring the idea of giving special advice to its regional secretaries in areas with large ethnic minorities. They could be asked, for example, to have periodic meetings with black leaders.

Dr Dipak Nayak, a TUC member from the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, said unions were too involved in bargaining for pay and conditions to the exclusion of other matters. "We have to create a new credibility in the trade unions," he said.

Mr John Monks, head of the TUC's organization and industrial relations department, said it was important to persuade ethnic minorities to become more involved in union affairs by convincing them that unions were interested in their difficulties.

"The charter will contain ideas of a programme for positive action," he said.

Leg. Services - New Start (Legal Action Group, 28 Highgate Road, London, NW5, E15 3Q)

By Ian Bradley

One salutary result of the British political system is that even the Deputy Prime Minister must regularly turn away from affairs of state to cope with constituents' worries about such things as weight restrictions on major roads and the continuation of dairy milk deliveries.

Those two subjects loomed large during Mr William Whitelaw's visit to his constituency of Penrith and the Border on Saturday. After a hectic week of Home Secretarial duties, it was evidently a relief to him to come, as he does every three weeks or so, to parts of Britain where such issues as immigration and crime are largely unknown.

Earlier this year Mr Whitelaw celebrated 25 years as MP for Penrith and the Border. He has strong roots in the constituency, sharing in the ownership of a 350-acre beef and dairy farm near Penrith, and has become almost a part of the local landscape. His features and style reflect North Cumbria: gentle and reassuring, but with a touch of grandeur and grit.

His first engagement on Saturday was a morning "surgery" in Carlisle, a separate parliamentary constituency like a small island of socialism in the deep blue ocean of Penrith and the Border.

Carlisle is the working place and shopping centre for many who live in Mr Whitelaw's 550-square-mile constituency, which stretches from the Scottish border to the fringes of the

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EUROPE

And reform becomes crucial issue in Portuguese election

Richard Wigg
Southern Portugal

François de Carneiro, the minister, reaffirmed that form was one of the issues in his dispute with Dr Eanes, when he was in the last phase of the general election on Friday last night. Portugal's next Sunday.

Carneiro, leader of the Democratic Alliance, a grouping of centre-right parties, President Eanes' and political and military of seeking to maintain rule under the tutelage state. Evora, where he asked, is in the Alentejo where large tracts of land were expropriated after 74, revolution in a centralized land reform programme.

The Democratic Alliance was to give full property to small holders, after going back to the farmers, Dr Carneiro said. Land was the principal reason his Government was determined to reform the socialist constitution, imposed the wake of the revolution.

Dr Carneiro said last night he could not aid President Eanes' desire to bring together Socialists and Social Democrats to form a stable majority in Parliament. His own Social Democrats would remain allied with the conservative Democratic Centre Party, led by Dr Dreyer do Amaral, and with the small monarchist party.

The Prime Minister's visit to Evora underlined his nine-month-old Government's efforts to curb the Communist Party's influence in the Alentejo, where communist supporters still control half the land seized under the initial land reform programme.

The Communists hold three of Evora's five parliamentary seats, and in last December's general elections the Democratic Alliance captured one of the two Socialist seats. It is with the hope of winning a second seat in Evora that Dr Carneiro campaigned last night.

Politicians occasionally express concern about their middle-class audience, as "heroes" who had withstood the communist onslaught.

At the December election the Democratic Alliance won a majority of only three in Parliament, and it needs to capture more votes from the Socialists.

Back for French left

Our Own Correspondent

Sept 28

left did not do as well as expected in today's elections.

decision by Communists socialist candidates to go it separately worked in the Government's favour.

Right up until the last election campaign, communists were gunning Socialists, accusing them of "neutrality" with the right.

pical result of this lack among the left was the of M Maurice Brugnon, a Socialist deputy, to win a seat was generally considered to be certain of victory.

Neo-Nazis show they have to be feared

From Patricia Clough

Bonn, Sept 28

The Democratic Alliance therefore has a double battle to win a stable majority in the Assembly of the Republic (Parliament) and to defeat President Eanes through the election of General Soares.

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Once, they were ridiculed: Members of the Wehrsportgruppe Hoffmann during a paramilitary exercise in Bavaria in 1978.

forces they were easy to keep an eye on, easy to catch and clearly not in the same class as the highly professional, icy-ruthless and frighteningly efficient terrorists of the left.

Signs that the neo-Nazis were moving into serious terrorism have accumulated slowly, since January with a number of small-scale attacks. Two were in connection with an exhibition about the Auschwitz extermination

camp in Baden-Württemberg, and three on buildings housing foreigners seeking refuge or work in West Germany.

It was only after the last one in Hamburg at the end of August in which two Vietnamese refugees died, that the Federal Prosecutor's office recognized the attacks as the work of a single terrorist group and took over investigations.

Six people were arrested and

the group, the Deutsche Aktionsgruppen, was considered crushed. The Wehrsportgruppe (Military Sports Group) Hoffmann, which is being investigated in connection with the Munich attack, was banned by the German Federal sports Minister on January 30. Simultaneously the police raided the homes of 23 members and the group's headquarters, a tumble-down castle near Nuremberg

where, wearing steel helmets and uniforms, members used to hold paramilitary exercises.

No one, however, was arrested.

The group's leader was identified as Herr Karl-Heinz Hoffmann, aged 42, a former mercenary and sign painter, who saw himself as the future Führer. The police revelations about this group aroused more ridicule than alarm among ordinary Germans.

"I plead with you," he said,

"for a massive increase in assistance for developing the agricultural sector in order to speed up production and cover the needs of the food-deficit countries."

Mr Saouma said that the economic well-being of the third world was vital for the industrialized nations.

Four join Waltz to the West

Vienna, Sept 28 — Four Romanians have escaped to Austria hidden under the roof of a train from Bucharest to Vienna.

Two men and two women in their twenties endured the 20-hour trip on Thursday lodged between the train roof and the ceiling of a passenger compartment, the police said. They emerged when the Vienna Waltz express stopped here and they heard German being spoken outside. — Reuter.

UN group to research farm energy sources

From Mario Modiano

Athens, Sept 28

Twenty-six member states of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's European division have decided to sponsor systematic research into other sources of energy for farming because of the increasing cost of conventional fuels.

The decision to set up a co-operative network for scientific research into the possible use of solar and wind energy by farmers was taken in Athens yesterday at the closing session of the organization's twelfth regional conference for Europe.

The decision was taken because of the organization's efforts to bolster agricultural development in Third World countries, especially in Africa. Mr Edouard Saouma, the director-general, had warned the conference, that the food supply in many developing countries remained critical, especially in areas stricken by drought or other natural or political disasters.

Mr Saouma said that in Africa, where agricultural production was growing at less than 2 per cent a year, the population grew by about 3 per cent, so that the average African has 10 per cent less food available to him today than 10 years ago.

He said that 26 countries south of the Sahara in Africa, with a population of 150 million, would need 2.4 million tons of cereals this year to avoid famine. However, pledges of aid by member countries had not yet reached 500,000 tons.

"I plead with you," he said, "for a massive increase in assistance for developing the agricultural sector in order to speed up production and cover the needs of the food-deficit countries."

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The next few years are a vital period for British industry.

Can it survive the recession to emerge stronger, fitter, healthier, and better able to compete in the world's markets?

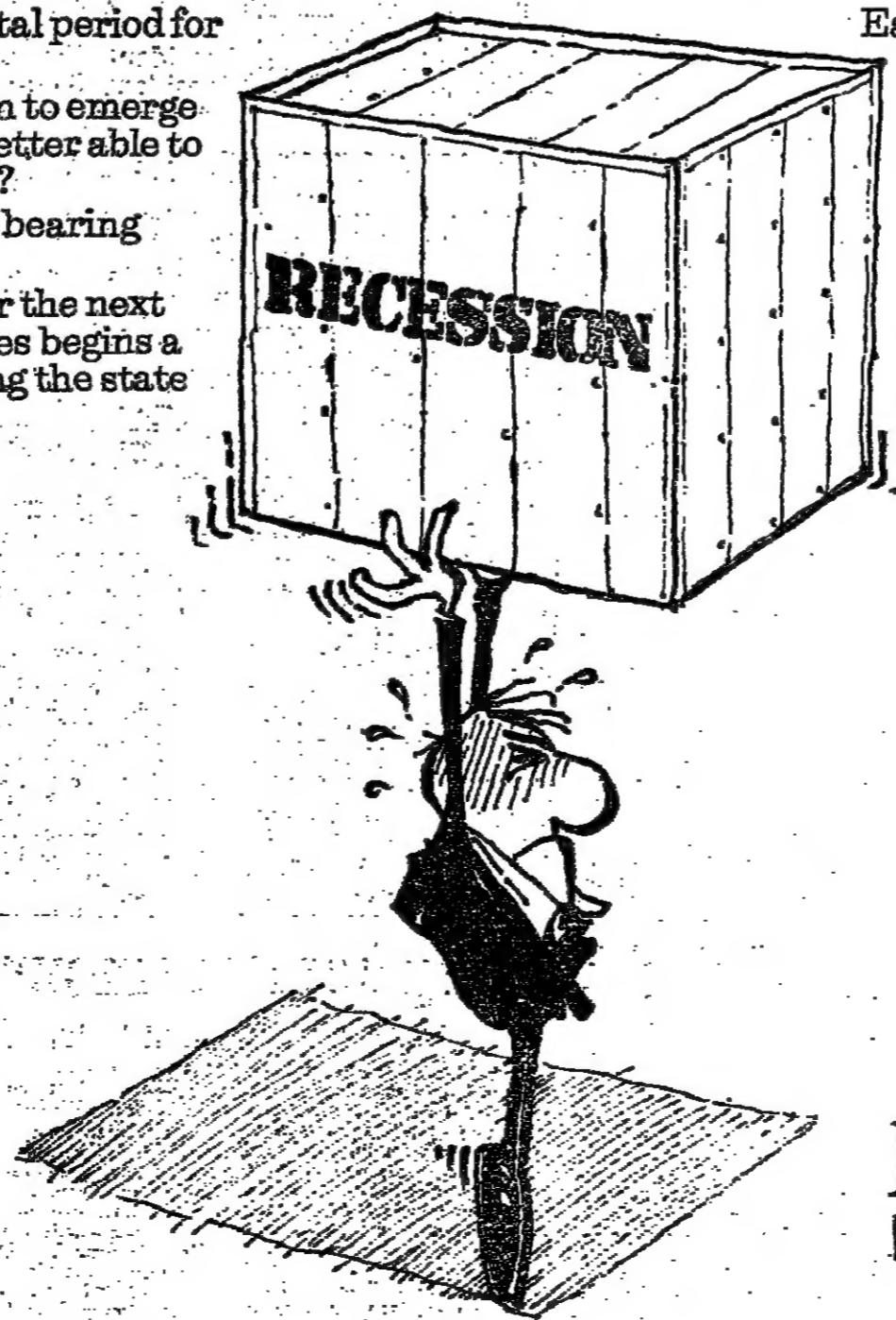
Or will the burden it's now bearing cause parts of it to crumble?

Today—and continuing over the next three weeks—the Financial Times begins a major series of articles examining the state of British industry.

Each day we'll be looking at one company—large or small—in a key industry and asking: how is it coping with the recession? Is it making the right kind of economies? Can it strengthen its industrial base, to emerge from the recession in better shape? Or is it already sufficiently fit to survive?

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Its implications are important for us all.



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WEST EUROPE AND OVERSEAS



Khmer Rouge fighters protect their weapons as they march knee-deep through floods to stalk Vietnamese troops in western Kampuchea.

Confusion as 'Spanish tummy' sweeps Madrid

From Harry Debelius.

Madrid, Sept. 28. Residents of this city continued to drink bottled, boiled or bleach-treated water today, while many people suffered from diarrhoea and upset stomachs, and the authorities disagreed about the safety of Madrid's water.

According to municipal health officials, the capital's water supply, which serves more than 4 million people, is contaminated by coliform, organic phosphates, nitrates and ammonia. According to the water supply company and the Ministry of Health and Safety, the water can be drunk with absolute confidence.

Unlike many other Spanish towns, Madrid has long been famous for its good water, purer and better-tasting than that of most large cities in Europe. On September 18 however, according to the water-supply company, known as the Isabel II Canal, a broken valve allowed contaminated water from an unused reservoir to flow into one of the large artificial lakes used to store Madrid's water. In the Guadarrama mountains.

The valve was not repaired until 36 hours later. More chlorine was added to the water, but the contamination became evident by September 20, when the city hall and the water company received a number of complaints from citizens.

On September 22, four days after the breakdown, the authorities revealed for the first time that there was a problem with the city's water supply. The municipal authorities gave

the first warning. Three days later, both the city hall and the Water Ministry announced that the level of contamination was no longer significant and posed no public health problem.

Nevertheless the town hall reversed its stand late on Friday, saying that the analysis of more recent samples showed renewed contamination. A spokesman for the municipal government urged people either to boil their water before drinking it or using it to wash fruits or vegetables, or to add two drops of bleach to each litre.

The Health Ministry, however, still insists that "no contamination of the Madrid water supply is detectable at this time". Dr Luis Valenciano, the Director General of Public Health, says the water situation is "reassuring", and points out that his ministry has been taking continuous samples. He argues that there is no significant change from last Thursday, when the water was pronounced potable. He adds that from that date, bacteriological contamination disappeared from water samples.

Dr Valenciano also said that representatives of the city council, the Province of Madrid, the water company and his ministry met yesterday for the first of a series of discussions. In "any case", he remarked, "on the possibility of distributing polluted water must be avoided."

The meetings are intended to promote coordination between the various official bodies concerned, in order to verify and compare the results of the different routine analyses of the water supply.

Two killed in Salisbury hotel attack

From Frederick Cleary

Salisbury, Sept. 28.

The politically-inspired violence which has enveloped parts of Zimbabwe in recent weeks spread to Salisbury last night when an unknown gang attacked a suburban hotel, killing two men and wounding 27.

The attack happened at 9.40 pm when the downstairs bar of the Peacock Hotel in the Mabel-Teign suburb was packed. The bar is popular with black residents who include elements of both the Zulu and Zanla guerrilla armies based in the city.

According to witnesses, a grenade was thrown through a window into the bar killing the two men instantly. Then machine guns were fired.

A Zanla guerrilla was fatally wounded on Friday night when a gang attacked a lonely farmhouse in the Goromonzi district, the scene of numerous incidents in recent weeks. The dead man was a member of a Zimbabwean group which attacked the farm in which two young women were staying with their mother. The gang was apparently looking for the black farm manager. Unable to find him, they opened fire on the owner's house. The women returned the fire, killing one man.

Commenting on the wave of lawlessness, Mr Ian Smith, the Rhodesian Front leader, said there had been too much talk and too little action by the Government. He called on Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, to act firmly and use his powers fully.

Mr Smith was re-elected as president of the RF at its annual congress. A committee is to examine the question of the party's name the word Rhodesia being an anachronism.

Referring to the recent action taken against Lieutenant-General Peter Walls, the former military commander, Mr Smith said the general had been foolish and arrogant in making the television remarks which led to his being barred from returning to Zimbabwe.

However, he said, a man had the right to live in his country of his birth.

Unesco director reelected for further term

Belgrade, Sept. 28. — The United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) yesterday unanimously reelected Mr Ahmadi Mahzar M'Bow as its director-general for a new term of seven years.

Delegates attending the Unesco general conference here greeted the announcement of his re-election with loud applause. Mr M'Bow, aged 59, is from Senegal.

The latest polls confirm other recent soundings that the leading candidates are neck and neck and that either could win the election if it were held now. The challenge, once posed by Mr Anderson, seems to be fading.

Both the President and Mr Reagan were taking a break from campaigning this weekend, leaving only the independent candidate on the campaign trail.

Mr Carter, who had the independent retreat at Camp David in the hills of Maryland while his Republican opponent rested at his ranch near Santa Barbara in California, Mr Anderson travelled across New England meeting students and holding rallies and press conferences yesterday, but even he decided to take a rest today.

The campaigns of all the candidates resumes tomorrow.

Switched sides: Mr George Bush, the former Under-Secretary of State, yesterday had switched his support to President Carter from Mr Anderson, because he was "appalled by the prospect" of a Reagan presidency.—UPI.

Weapons found in woman's cases in Athens

Athens, Sept. 28. — Customs officers discovered a cache of weapons hidden in the suitcases of a Greek-American woman who arrived here from Chicago, it was reported today.

The cache was said to include two rifles, four revolvers, 10 pistols, 8,300 cartridges, gunpowder, two boxes of detonator caps, four hunting rifles and a book on how to assemble weapons.

The woman, aged 45, who was moving in Greece, was charged with illegal weapons traffic and importation. She said she was unaware of the arsenal contained in her luggage.

The State Security Courts of Athens and the port of Piraeus have started investigating the origin and destination of the weapons.—Agence France Presse.

Climbing sailors

Barcelona, Sept. 28. — Two American sailors who climbed a statue commemorating Christopher Columbus were brought down by firemen after police failed to coax them down. The police said the sailors were drunk.

Fiat decision emphasizes depth of Italian crisis

Continued from page 1

handle routine business until a new government is found. He might even send him back to Parliament to ask for another vote of confidence in the hope that the Government can be reinstated.

But after yesterday's events, such a solution could be only temporary.

The country's next Government, which will be its fourth since the war ended, will have to give the impression—if it is to gain credibility—of being able to deal with Italy's worst crisis since 1945.

The alternative candidates to Signor Cossiga as Prime Minister among the eternally governing Christian Democrats do not have his record of proven personal integrity.

If an indication was needed of the seriousness of the crisis, it came from the sudden decision of the Fiat management to suspend its decision taken to disband immediately some 15,000 workers at its Turin car plants.

Both the Government's fall and the move of Fiat to reverse its plans are claimed as victories by the Communists' leader, Signor Enrico Berlinguer, the Communist Party leader, who for months called for the destruction of the coalition Government in which the Communists had no part.

No doubt President Pertini, who curtailed a visit to Hong Kong and returned home tonight, will ask Signor Cossiga to

propose for tackling rising inflation, unemployment and a huge trade deficit. Approval of the economic decree, however, was regarded by government supporters less as a cure than as a prelude to a genuine attempt at mastering the country's economic difficulties.

What has come about is a crisis which calls into question more clearly than ever the validity of the work of Parliament. It will not be easy to persuade the public that the Chamber of Deputies can in a matter of minutes give a sound majority to the government and then take it away.

The country's next Government, which will be its fourth since the war ended, will have to give the impression—if it is to gain credibility—of being able to deal with Italy's worst crisis since 1945.

The alternative candidates to Signor Cossiga as Prime Minister among the eternally governing Christian Democrats do not have his record of proven personal integrity.

If an indication was needed of the seriousness of the crisis, it came from the sudden decision of the Fiat management to suspend its decision taken to disband immediately some 15,000 workers at its Turin car plants.

Both the Government's fall and the move of Fiat to reverse its plans are claimed as victories by the Communists' leader, Signor Enrico Berlinguer, the Communist Party leader, who for months called for the destruction of the coalition Government in which the Communists had no part.

No doubt President Pertini, who curtailed a visit to Hong Kong and returned home tonight, will ask Signor Cossiga to

IRAN/IRAQ WAR

No ceasefire 'until 1913 agreement is respected'

From Tewfik Mkhannad.

Beirut, Sept. 28.

As the Gulf war entered its second week Iraq claimed more territorial gains, hoping to use them for bargaining when peace negotiations start.

A military communiqué said today that Iraq forces had captured the town of Ghasa-Ghar, about 30 miles from the border, and now flew the Iraqi flag.

Iraq's aims were for Iran to recognize that the Shatt-al-Arab waterway at the head of the Gulf is Iraqi and for Tehran to end all interference in Iraq's internal affairs, he said.

Mr Hammadi also repeated Iraqi claims to have control since yesterday of the city of Ahvaz, in the oil-rich Khuzestan area.

He said that Iraq was concerned about the adverse effects the war is having on the world economy. But, he said, Iraq did not have a choice.

Iraq wanted Iran to respect the 1913 border agreement and "that is something we would not accept to be put for negotiation".

Asked if Iran would have to agree to the border accord before Iraq would accept a ceasefire, Mr Hammadi replied: "Definitely. They have to agree that our frontier is respected."

He said Iraq also opposed the Iranian "occupation" of three islands in the Strait of Hormuz—the islands of Larak, Qeshm and Hormuz.

Mr Hammadi denied that Mr Shafiq Bakhtiar, the former Iranian Prime Minister, was now in Iraq and denied taking any action to put Mr Bakhtiar back in a position of power.

Iraq had Iraq had no need of military assistance at present and had not sought any exceptional arms aid. He urged the United States, the Soviet Union, West Europe and Japan to stay out of the conflict and warned against a foreign attempt to keep the Strait of Hormuz open.

"This initiative will only encourage the Soviet Union to counteract", he said. "The best policy for the superpowers is to keep their hands off."

Agence France-Presse.

Two killed in Salisbury hotel attack

Continued from page 1

By Nicholas Hirst

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Air strikes by both sides continue as Iraqi claims of captured towns are challenged by Iranians

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be captured. Iran's principal oil export terminal, 150 miles south of Shatt-al-Arab, at least six Iraqi aircraft were brought down, the statement said.

There were fears that other Arab countries might find themselves involved in one side or the other. In a statement broadcast by Iranian radio today, Iraq accused some Arab states in the Gulf region of extending military assistance to Iraq.

Although no country was mentioned by name there were reports last week that Iraqi aircraft were raiding oil refineries in the United Arab Emirates.

An Iraqi statement suggested it had no need to seek outside help but indirectly accused Syria of helping Iran. The Baghdad newspaper Al-Thawra reproduced a foreign press report claiming that Syria had been aiding Iraq in its war against Iran.

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So easy for a Holbein to ride away

Right: a small panel painting with its place in royal archives or a vital part of our national heritage?



What makes a small panel painting of a man on horseback, unrecognized and unknown to scholars, into a rare Holbein painting and a vital part of our national heritage? The most watertight answer is documentation which explains the history of the picture. Failing this, there may be scientific evidence for dating the panel and pigments, or art historians' opinions on stylistic grounds.

The evidence that is so far available on the little panel recently in the news, bought by a group of dealers at Christie's for £3,500 and sold to the Getty Museum in Malibu for £15,000, is not conclusive. The case is characteristic of many old pictures which have passed from hand to hand over the centuries so that their history and origin has been forgotten. There is only scrappy evidence of who painted it where, or why.

Most securely documented paintings are now in public collections if not in the royal palaces for which they were painted. Of the old paintings that come on the market, it is not an exaggeration to say that 50 per cent or so will never be attributed with certainty to any master. There is not enough evidence.

That does not mean that dealers, collectors and museums will not have a try. Such is the human psyche, that a fine painting is more respected and valued if its author is known. Anyone who handles a picture will try to put a name to it.

And the extent to which the name will increase the value of the picture and the public interest in it will be in direct relation to the reputation of the man who chooses the name. The little panel of a man in flowing robes on a galloping horse is only part of the way through its metabolism from a "hantment" to a Holbein. The story of its fate is characteristic of the art market and underlines an important point: little understood by the public. For all their vaunted expertise, leading auctioneers and dealers often do not recognize what they are dealing with—there are limits to the knowledge of any expert, however bright and well-read. Of course their knowledge does often enable them to make discoveries; but equally items slip through their hands unrecognized which some specialists may later succeed in identifying.

The little panel painting on oak measures 17 inches across. It depicts a crouching

gentleman in classical robes on a galloping horse. It was bought by a County dealer, Anthony Hayes, in a provincial shop of oak furniture where it was described merely as "a hantment". He paid £2,700 for it. The panel bears two intriguing clues. The back is incised with the monogram of Henry Prince of Wales, the son of James I who collected paintings extensively, mainly from the Low Countries around the year 1600.

The front bears a Latin inscription. Mr Hayes was hoping that he might have fallen on something important which could be identified by these clues. He did not get down to the research himself but gave it to Christie's to research and sell. Christie's established that the monogram of the Prince's collection was genuine but could not come up with any clear attribution. They described it as "Circle of Giulio Romano".

It appears that Dr Fletcher is Oxford has more scientific evidence up his sleeve but Frederickson is not yet convinced about the attribution of his purchase.

Meanwhile Mr Hayes is taking legal advice on the advisability of suing Christie's for negligence in their catalogue and that three dealers for distinguished dealers—Colnaghi, Artemis and Speelman—bought it in partnership for £3,500. Their trained eyes had also told them that this was a picture of special quality; if they could find a history and a name for it they might be in line for a very large profit.

In the event, they appear to have had little more success than anyone else at giving the panel an identity. They succeeded in deciphering the Latin inscription, a quotation from Petrarch: "And so desire carries me away". Richard Herner of Colnaghi's has it sitting on his desk for a year, broken in two pieces, where it was seen by a quantity of leading connoisseurs. He gathered a quiver of suggested attributions—but nothing that could be pinned down.

He points out that it is essentially a decorative item, rather than a picture *per se*. It could have been the top of a casket, or it might have been a decorated door covering a Renaissance portrait; it was not unusual to have such a cover to protect a portrait. Or it might have been a panel from some other decorative scheme. At Colnaghi's Mr Burton Frederickson of the Getty Museum saw the panel at Christie's and became excited. He commissioned Dr John Fletcher of the Oxford Research Laboratory for the

Geraldine Norman
Saleroom Correspondent

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Two aspects of a major issue at today's Labour Party conference

Paying court to the block vote

The trade unions block vote at the Labour Party conference is coming under scrutiny once more. The system has always had its critics, of course, but the extraordinary events in the TUC over the past few days have served to focus fresh attention on the actions of the powerful in the Labour movement.

Constituency party delegations to conference feel jealous and frustrated because their votes are outnumbered almost ten to one by the unions. Democrats inside and outside the party complain that a handful of trade union moguls exercised disproportionate influence through the manipulation of hundreds of thousands of votes that do not necessarily represent the views of their members.

There are even misgivings among the unions themselves, particularly the middle-ranking middle-ground unions like the miners and the railwaymen, whose industrial numbers and therefore influence has declined while those of the big general unions has grown rapidly.

But the block vote system has endured because nobody has come up with a convincing alternative that could command majority support—and perhaps because the Labour Party is so culturally enmeshed with the trade union movement, where the majority reign supreme and unity is the highest form of political expression.

The system has also survived, of course, because until recently it has imposed its own brand of caution on a party with a radical socialist objective. Only when the block votes appear to be going "the wrong" way do some of the democrats cry foul.

Whether these criticisms are valid or not, the system that allows Mr Moss Evans, general secretary of the transport workers' union, TGWU, to affiliate with 1,250,000 workers, the votes of all the constituency parties combined, with the outcome of this week's crucial deliberations.

Trade unions are free to affiliate on more or less of their membership as long as their members have approved politically.

At Colnaghi's Mr Burton

The Labour Party Block Vote		Mineworkers (NUM)
AFFILIATED MEMBERSHIP		240,000
Agricultural Workers		10,000
Bakers' Union		70,000
Blaustenmachers		1,000
Boilermakers		75,000
Boot & Shoe, Rossendale		3,000
Carpet workers, Scottish		1,000
Carpenters, Powerloom		5,000
Ceramic & Allied trades		40,000
Chemicalgraph (ACTT)		1,500
Coffery-Overmen		18,000
Construction Trades (Uclif)		200,000
General Metal Workers		1,000
Dyers and Bleachers		60,000
Electrical and Plumbing		260,000
AUEW—Constructional		15,000
Engineering		925,000
Foundry workers		42,000
Footwear and leather		95,000
Fire Brigades		60,000
Furniture, Trade		50,000
General and Municipal		20,000
Graphical and Allied (Sogas)		103,000
Health Services (Cohes)		9,500
Insurance Workers		85,500
Iron and Steel (Stc)		5,500
Lithographic Artists (Slaide)		20,000
Train Drivers (Aslef)		2,500
Lorry Overloaders		16,000
Metal Mechanics		1,000
Affiliated organisations who had less than 1,000 members		666
		4,870,000

One of the key delegations to this year's conference, that of the engineering workers, has been bound hand and foot by the union's policy-making committee not to support the proposal to reform the block vote system. They arrived in Blackpool free make-up their minds on the eve of the conference, while others had a free hand to support Mr. Clegg.

Proposals for a reform of the block vote system have been advanced over the years. On the left, the idea is for a "multiplier" effect so that constituency party votes are magnified to equal those of the most powerful unions. On the right, the group of Labour MPs who propose a six-point programme for reform in the TUC, led by the socialist Derry Donnelly, argued that the best way to strengthen the relationship between unions and the party is through the purchasing of votes.

They argued that "the right of the trade unions to finance the Labour Party—and in particular its damaging effect on the legitimacy of the party's claim to be a democratic socialist through the purchasing of votes" is not appropriate.

But their main conclusion is that the block vote system "should be made important again" and should be avoided.

The M.P.s, some of them self-sponsoring, tried to avoid saying what forms they might have in mind. And so both incumbents, a Labour MP for High Wycombe, and a Conservative, a Labour MP for Chelmsford, will be obliged to continue paying court to union leaders. They initially show no signs of tiring, demonstrating that the unions have not yet given up the fight.

So it is that the "Big Four"—the engineering workers, the General and Municipal Workers Union, the public employees and the transport workers—command between them some 1.5 million votes. And if they combine with the next four biggest—the construction workers, the electricians, the shipworkers and the miners—they command an absolute majority of around three and a half million votes.

Theoretically, the leaders of these eight unions could determine the course of the Labour Party's political future. It does not happen, because the unions are, as ever, the trades in which their members work. And the leadership of political change at the top in the trade union movement precludes the members from doing so.

In any event, the decision on how the block vote is to be used is in the gift of the men who actually hold up the card. Trade union delegations to the party conference often have a lively sense of independence that has discredited their leaders. It is not uncommon for a union general secretary or president to discover that he is sitting on the card when he should be holding it in his hand if his delegation has voted "the wrong way".

Equally, delegations have publicly vented their anger when their leader has not voted in the way he was instructed.

Paul Routhed
Labour Ed.

Public Employees by 100,000; the AUEW (Engineering Section) by 50,000; and AUEW (TASS) by 10,000. Likewise, unions with a falling membership—like the steelworkers—affiliate at fewer, and when the per capita contribution rates goes up, unions feeling the pinch sometimes cut their affiliation figure to save money.

But despite the squeeze, union funds, affiliation levels over the past few years have shown a steady increase, demonstrating that the unions take their block vote very seriously.

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The trade unions have always been considered the power base from which the Labour Party's right wing derived its authority. The left have generally ascribed this to the malignant character of trade union leaders, which is about as useful an analysis as that which lays the blame for socialism's decline on the "right wing" of the party. The socialist leaders are not, however, the only ones who are not necessarily socialist.

The primary function of trade unions is to improve the conditions of their members and the primary function of socialist organisations is to change society. These two objectives are by no means mutually exclusive, but nor are they absolutely compatible.

From the outset there was a difference of emphasis, which almost immediately assumed the character of an ideological division. The Labour Representation Committee emerged from the 1906 general election with 26 M.P.s. They decided to call themselves the Labour Party and set out to elect a chairman from their ranks. The candidates were Keir Hardie, the socialist, and Frank Shattock, the non-socialist trade union leader. Hardie won by a single vote.

Two distinct and potentially conflicting trends have always been seen within the party: Those who sought reforms and improvements within the existing social order and those who wanted to replace it with a cooperative, collectivist system.

The 1906 conference will be used as a platform where the aspirants to the leadership will display their plaudits. I am undecided whether political commentators are really ignorant of this reality or if they simply want to sustain an illusion of uncertainty for their own professional purposes to help them through the week. Do not misunderstand. The Labour Party is a democratic organization. However, the process and machinery of decision making is largely outside and prior to the conference, which to some extent is a counting house for votes cast elsewhere. Given the organization's almost federal character it is difficult to think of an alternative arrangement that would not undermine the autonomous and yet coalescent principles that lie at the very heart of the party.

The concluding which I am reaching is this: the left can never win real power in the Labour Party unless it first wins the support of the right wing.

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POLITICAL HISTORY

Nigeria, the most populous black state in the world, became a sovereign state on October 1, 1960. Before then, it had been a colony of Britain since 1914, when Lord Lugard amalgamated what was to be the Southern and Northern protectorates of Nigeria. Independence from Britain was achieved through nationalist struggle—strikes, taxation, mass protests and tribal warfare. There was no armed struggle.

The civilian administration ushered the country into political independence, was elected through democratic elections held in 1959. That government handed over to a military government in January, 1966, after sections of the Nigerian army had mutinied in reaction to widespread political unrest and violence in parts of the country.

At that time, Nigeria was federated by a Prime Minister at the centre and regional Premiers. The Minister, two regional ministers, a Federal Minister and a number of top army officers were killed. The General Officer Commanding Nigerian Army took over as Head of the Federal Military Government, and became Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces. He tended to the country towards a military form of government, was an unpopular move after six months; his government was overthrown and one of his Military Governors and some of his officers were killed.

Nigeria's second Military Government lasted nine years. During this period, a war was fought to release the country after a period of it had tried to do. The peace was won at the end of the war, the government declared that there was no victor and a were vanquished. A general amnesty had been issued and war victims were rehabilitated.

There was post-war reconstruction followed by an economic boom. By now Nigeria had become a nation of twelve states in response to the demands of the creation of new states.

Third Military Government came into being in a coup on July 29, 1975. It announced a four-year programme that would initiate with the return to democracy, the election of the Federal Capital from Lagos to Abuja in the centre of the country in response to popular demands. It also created seven new states to make Nigeria a nation of nineteen states. Head of this government, late General Murtala Rammed was killed in an coup on February 12, 1976, after six dramatic days in office and was succeeded by a national hero. His successor, General Olusegun Obasanjo, was persuaded by his colleagues to head the transition and complete the programme embarked upon by his assassinated predecessor.

A 49-man Constitution Drafting Committee was set to draft a constitution. The draft constitution was sent to public scrutiny for a whole year before it was further submitted to scrutiny by an elected Constituent Assembly.

The new constitution provides for the union of the Presidential system of government in preference to the Westminster system of democracy. It provides for a President, a Vice-President, a 95 member Senate and a 449 member House of Representatives at Federal level. The Houses of Assembly were formed by the executive and legislative arms of government at the state level. It also provided for elected governments to bring the government closer to the grassroots. The Judiciary will



Administrative map

stay aloof and serve as interpreters of the law and the constitution—the final arbiter.

On September 21, 1978, the Military Government announced the lifting of the ban on party politics. It set up the Federal Electoral Commission (FEDECO) and charged it with responsibility to register political parties and conduct elections into the Senate, the House of Representatives, state Houses of Assembly, as well as conduct Gubernatorial elections and the election of the President and the Vice-President on a joint ticket.

There were very many political associations wishing to be registered as political parties but only five of them met the stringent requirements for qualification as laid down by FEDECO. These five political parties are the National Party of Nigeria (NPN), the Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN), the Nigerian Peoples' Party (NPP), the Peoples' Redemption Party (PRP) and the Great Nigerian Peoples' Party (GNPP). One of the requirements laid down by FEDECO for qualification to be registered as a political party was that such parties must have a national base and geographical spread.

Each of the five parties captured power at the state levels as follows: NPN 7 states, UPN 5 states, NPP 3 states, GNPP 2 states and PRP 2 states.

All the five political parties fielded candidates for the Presidential election which was held on August 11, 1979. The candidate of the NPN, Alhaji Shehu Umaru Alitu Shagari, won the election with his running mate, Dr Alex Ifeanyi Ekwueme, having fulfilled the dual conditions of winning a majority of popular votes and having the required geographical spread which is framed to ensure that the whole country is the constituency of the President.

Alhaji Shehu Shagari and his running mate, Dr Alex Ekwueme, were sworn in as President and Vice-President respectively of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Alhaji

Shehu Shagari's closest rival was Chief Obafemi Awolowo, leader of the Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN), who had chosen Phillip Umeh as his running mate.

Alhaji Shehu Shagari's party, the NPN, has the single largest number of seats in

house. President Shehu Shagari's government will encourage the local production of building materials.

Education will be a priority and it will be qualitative and have a sound moral content. Individuals and Voluntary Agencies will

How has he performed and how well has he made good his promises? This assessment has to be made having in mind the constraints imposed by the constitutional provision of the separation of powers.

Under the constitution, the National Assembly or the Executive can initiate bills that need the National Assembly's blessing and the President's assent to become law. Where the President's assent has not been received within 21 days of the passing of a bill by the National Assembly, the National Assembly can re-examine the bill and if it passes it with a two-thirds majority of members, it becomes binding on the President to assent. The same provision applies in the relationship between the executive and the legislature at the state level.

Executive and legislative acts can be challenged in the law courts by concerned citizens.

In the one year of our operation of the Presidential system, exciting and stimulating exchanges have taken place in the law courts and a number of government actions and decisions at both Federal and state levels have been challenged successfully in the law courts.

All these have reassured Nigerians that they are truly back in a democracy after thirteen years of military rule.

Nigerians expect better farm yields and more food in the next harvesting season.

government functionaries for such purposes.

There are storage facilities and the Ministry intends to build more. The government will purchase from farmers what is regarded as surplus and sell to needy consumers in areas where there is no surplus.

Agricultural research bodies are assisting and the country hopes to feed itself and be able to export food within five years despite the dependence of neighbouring sister countries for some of their food supplies.

The whole agrarian revolution will cost billions of Naira and will, apart from the Federal Government, involve the state and local governments.

By January 1 next year, a Land Resources Department will come into existence to study what type of fertilizer is best suited for any particular area. To ensure that the country does not exhaust its forest resources and endanger wild life, the Ministry intends to keep to international standards.

As far as the Green Revolution is concerned, emphasis will be on technology to get the farmers away from the drudgery of tilling the soil with outmoded equipment and technique. Practical men will be sent into the field to assist the farmers.

Nigerians expect better farm yields and more food in the next harvesting season.

N65,000 per house or N30,000 per unit or flat. Economic loans cover private residential houses built for letting and/or costing over N65,000 and houses built by housing estates not covered under social loans. These loans are also for building materials, development and a repayment period of

demand at all levels of our educational system. We also plan to make education more clear in his first broadcast to the nation when he said:

"My Administration is irrevocably committed to making education a priority. We shall immediately expand educational infrastructures in order to cope with the

order to cope with the

Alhaji Shehu Shagari, President, Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces.

up to 10 years applies. Commercial loans cover commercial buildings, specialized buildings, departmental stores, office development and State Housing Corporations operations within the above. This category of loans is repayable within seven years.

A new town is being built at Abeokuta on the outskirts of Lagos. Site clearance of the new town has almost been completed and construction of houses has actually begun. The projected population of the town is estimated at 350,000.

There is also a World Bank Urban Development Project which provides for a phased implementation in eight states. The pilot project is in Bauchi State. The first phase will be in Lagos, Ogun, Benue and Imo States while the second phase will be in Gongola, Niger and Ondo States.

In his first briefing to the

Minister of Education, Dr I. C. Madubuike, announced that it had been decided that a grant of N40.00 per pupil shall be paid to the state governments by the Federal Government

NIGERIA FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE OF PRESIDENT SHEHU SHAGARI

both the Senate and the House of Representatives. It worked out an accord with the third ranking NPP to ensure a workable majority in the National Assembly—that is, the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The swearing in of Alhaji Shehu Shagari as Nigeria's first Executive President ended the thirteen year period of military rule in the country.

Africa shall remain the cornerstone of our foreign policy and it is the National will that Africa shall be free, free of racial bigotry, free of oppression and free from the vestiges of colonialism. President Shehu Shagari promised that we shall continue to support all forces of progress and oppose all forces of oppression in Africa and elsewhere. He reaffirmed faith in and support for the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the charter of the Organisation of African Unity, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

He promised that Agriculture will be transformed to the point where Nigeria will be food self-sufficient and formally announced the commencement of an agrarian revolution tagged the Green Revolution.

There will be millions of additional housing units in the urban as well as in the rural areas. Emphasis will be on home ownership and to reduce the cost of building a

AGRICULTURE

HOUSING

President Shehu Shagari's government is firmly committed to the provision of 200,000 housing units every

The Green Revolution will be mechanised. Thousands and thousands of tractors will be purchased. For a beginning, about 200 tractors, 50 tonne lorries, 250 mobile ridge threshers, 250 small irrigation pumps, 44 publicity vans, 250 sorgboum and miller threshers and 1,800 maize shellers have been purchased for distribution to farmers. That amounted to about N18 million.

Locusts, erosion, flood and insufficient rainfall are being counter-revolutionized. The government has an order fleet of helicopters to supplement existing stock all in the battle against locusts.

There has been a reorganization of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and its agencies like the Root Crops Production Company and the Grains Board, two bodies that are charged with the responsibility of producing and marketing the staple food of most Nigerians. The role of these two bodies is regarded as crucial to the revolution. The World Bank is sending four experts to help in organizing an efficient and effective marketing system for these bodies. Chairmen and Boards of Directors were recently appointed to give them proper direction.

The universities and schools of Agriculture throughout the country are being mobilized to organize a crash training programme for farmers as part of the government's farmer enlightenment plans. The intention is to get the farmers to operate the machines themselves and not depend on

construction of priority housing units in both the Ajaokuta and Aladja Steel Townships. Construction of the 250 priority housing units in Ajaokuta has started and the drawing-up of the Master Plan for additional 8,000 units has been completed. In Aladja, construction work has actually begun on the 4,500 housing units for the township population of 50,000. The town is expected to be fully ready by December 1983.

The Minister of Housing and Environment, Dr. Wahab Dosunmu is a specialist in urban planning. The government also has the additional benefit of the expertise in housing of the Vice-President, Dr. Alex Ekwueme, who before entering partisan politics was a renowned and very successful architect.

EDUCATION

Education is a priority of President Shehu Shagari's government and he made this

to enable them to finance the UPE scheme. The UPE is so important because it is aimed primarily at eradicating illiteracy. The government also runs an adult literacy programme aimed at achieving the same purposes. Emphasis, in this regard, is on functional literacy.

Federal and state governments own and run secondary schools. The Federal Government has 39 Federal Government Colleges conceived as "Unity Schools", with a total enrolment of 23,063. President Shehu Shagari's government reduced boarding fees in these schools from N120 to N60 per term to ensure that they attract all classes of Nigerians. The government has also devised a new admissions policy into these schools, which satisfies the requirements of merit, the needs of the surrounding states where the college is located and the central idea that Federal Government Colleges are conceived as "Unity Schools". Students of these schools usually represent Nigeria in microcosm. Secondary education is tuition free throughout the

Continued on page III



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25

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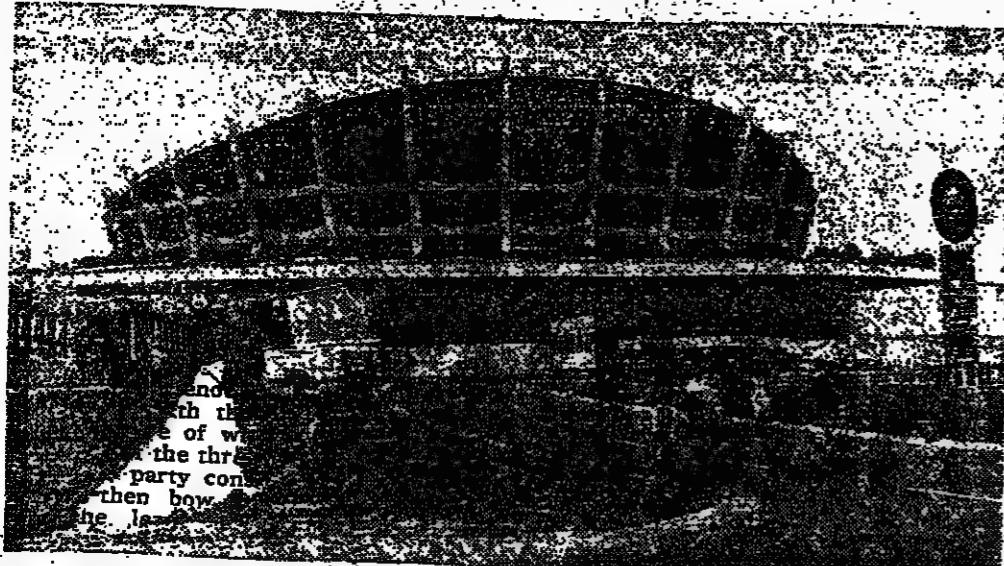
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26/28, MARINA, LAGOS, NIGERIA.

CHAD 001276

Continued from page 1



National theatre

country. Admission into these schools has been increased to 1,500 students per year per school.

Technical education geared towards the production of technical manpower has received great attention with the increase in the number of Polytechnics. There are 24 Polytechnics in Nigeria out of which seven are owned by the Federal Government. These Polytechnics award the Ordinary National Diploma (OND) and the Higher National Diploma (HND).

There are two Federal National Technical Teachers Colleges in Nigeria. At present there are 260 Grade II Teachers Colleges with a total enrolment of 234,680. There are also 35 institutions offering National Certificates of Education (NCE) courses in different subject combinations with a total student population of 17,690.

Nigeria probably has more universities than any other country in Africa. At the moment, there are 13 fully

and 142 postal agencies were also commissioned. In the mail delivery service sector, five new routes were opened and an additional 52,900 private letter boxes were provided for use of customers to cut down on the delay caused by house-to-house delivery of letters.

The Domestic Satellite through which National Television Network programmes are transmitted daily has been completed in all nineteen state capitals of Nigeria. This system is capable of generating radio frequency currents that can be deployed for telephone as well, and considerable efforts were made during this period in installing frequency converter equipment in all the affected locations.

Progress was also recorded on all the five aerostat sites in civil works. In the southwest aerostat site 66 per cent of the mooring sub-system ground electronics, mechanical and electrical works have been completed while the corresponding figure for Northeast site is about 70 per cent. No equipment installation



Federal Palace Hotel

gded universities and the establishment of three new ones has just been announced. In 1982, the Open University system will start functioning in the country, will benefit older people who had no opportunity to further their education when they were young, full-time workers who cannot leave their jobs to be full-time students, and those who cannot afford on-campus university education. The Open University is, indeed a bold step by President Shehu Shagari's government to enhance the manpower development of Nigeria.

The postal service also saw improvement in the completion of twenty-three departmental post offices out of which 10 offices have already been opened whilst construction work is in progress in another 179 locations. Six sub-post offices

have started in North Central, South Eastern and North Western sites because of delayed civil works.

When completed, each television viewer in any part of Nigeria will be able to select television programmes going on in any one of the three major centres in the country.

Nigeria's communication with the outside world is handled by the Nigerian External Telecommunications Ltd. (NET). To improve on accessibility to the outside world from different parts of Nigeria, NET has embarked on the construction of the Second International

Gateway Complex in Kaduna which on completion will cater for International Telecommunication Traffic from the Northern States of Nigeria. The system will provide alternate routing and system diversity for Nigerians communicating with the outside world.

NET has also introduced International Subscriber Dialling in Lagos metropolitan area to meet the growing demand for International Telephone Service. As a matter of fact, these facilities have been introduced in three exchanges so far. There was also the commissioning of Lagos-Abidjan Submarine Cable which among other things will provide high grade route diversity to the Satellite system and provide international telecommunications facilities to other ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) countries. NET also commissioned the computerised Message Switching Centre which will automatically deliver international telegrams to the nearest office of destination and also route messages from selected centres to their destination overseas without the intervention of an operator in Lagos.

The Lanlate Satellite Earth Station was upgraded to meet the new requirement of the International Satellite Organisation (INTELSAT). NET has also established offices in five state capitals to provide telephone, telex and facsimile services. The

These projects were embarked upon before the present government came into office but it is determined to accelerate them and for that reason it put them under a Minister, Alhaji Ali Makale.

Considerable work

amounting to about 65% of the civil works on the Delta Direct Reduction Plant had been accomplished by September, 1979. The Ajaokuta

the UN, Nigeria is still fully involved with the UN Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and this administration has ensured that the nation is contributing its quota to World Peace. The Defence Industries Corporation is being re-organized to meet the country's needs for small armament. A Military Assembly Plant is under construction. Within the past one year, the present administration took delivery of four

popular. The National football team the Green Eagles emerged champions of Africa by winning the African Cup of Unity. It participated in the Moscow Olympic Games and played a 1-1 draw with Czechoslovakia which won the gold medal. It is still in the running for the World Cup series, the finals of which will be played in Spain in 1982.

ECONOMY

All activities, recurrent and capital (development) depend on the state of the economy. For a number of years now, Nigeria has been talking in terms of billions. However, as at September 30, 1979, the last day of the military regime, the overall financial position of the Federal Government showed a deficit of about N1.4 billion. The state governments were in similar plight. As a result of sound fiscal measures, President Shehu Shagari's government has been able to reverse the trend. The recurrent expenditure for the 1980 financial year was pegged at N3.70 billion which showed an increase of 7.5% over the previous year's budget. The percentage increase before then had gone up as much as 42.9% in 1979-80, for example. The capital budget for 1980 has been fixed at N7.623 billion part of which is financed by recurrent revenue surplus. The resource gap in the capital budget will be bridged by enforcing a 20% reservation across the board pending improvement in revenue allocation.

The Ministries of Finance, Industries and National Planning with Professor S. M. Essang, Mr Adamu Ciroma and Mrs Adenike Ebun-Oyagbola as Ministers, respectively have crucial roles to play in shaping the economy. Details of the 4th National Development Plan (1981-85) are expected to be made known soon.

In the industrial sector, emphasis has shifted to the establishment of small-scale and medium-size industries for which substantial financial support will be given by the Nigerian Industrial Development Bank and the Nigerian Bank for Commerce and Industry which together will benefit from the Federal Government loan of N90 million in the 1980 capital estimates.

Inflation is being fought and the government has resisted unreasonable demands for an unrealistic minimum wage. It raised the minimum wage in the public sector from N60 per month to N100 and provided housing and transport allowance.

In the words of the President, Nigeria wants "a new world, where no man and no nation is oppressed, where men as well as nations are judged by the content and the quality of their human resources rather than military or economic prowess". After one year in office, the performance of President



Map of Abuja

facilities will eventually be extended to the other state capitals.



NEW FEDERAL CAPITAL, ABUJA

Nigeria is constructing Iron and Steel projects at following areas:

- (i) the Ajaokuta Integrated Blast Furnace Steel Complex;
- (ii) the Delta Direct Reduction Steel Plant at Alajia and
- (iii) the three Inland Steel Rolling Mills at Oshogbo, Jos and Katsina.

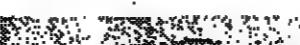
President Shehu Shagari's government will move the seat of the Federal Government to Abuja in 1982-83. All the city's projects relevant to the 1982-83 deadline are being embarked upon seriously. When completed, Abuja will be one of the most modern cities in the world. The Minister in charge of the Federal Capital Development Authority is Mr Jatau Kadiya.

period under review carried 125.82 million litres of petroleum products for a total earning of N4.8 million. It also made N2 million for the handling of dry cargo. It has also secured freight contracts from most of the Iron and Steel projects in the country.



DEFENCE

The Minister of Defence, Professor Iya Abubakar said on assuming office that part of Nigeria's defence strategy is to have well-trained and highly equipped armed forces to serve as a deterrent to adventurous countries. A draft agreement on Non-



WORKS

Nigeria continues to construct new roads and rehabilitate existing ones. It is an acknowledged fact that Nigeria has one of the best road networks in Africa. Right or not, emphasis is on road rehabilitation. Consultants have been commissioned to prepare tenders for the rehabilitation and special maintenance of about 1,300 kilometres of roads throughout the Federation. Weigh bridges are being installed on existing highways and negotiations have been concluded with the World Bank for a loan of US\$105 million to finance the sixth highway project. This project consists of the strengthening of certain roads throughout the country. The Minister of Works is Mr. Victor Igwe Masi.



Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Lagos.

aggression and Assistance on Defence among member states of ECOWAS was finally considered at ECOWAS Defence Pact Meeting held in Lome, Togo in May this year. The present administration has in fact embarked on a systematic increase in the number of Defence missions both in Africa and other friendly countries.

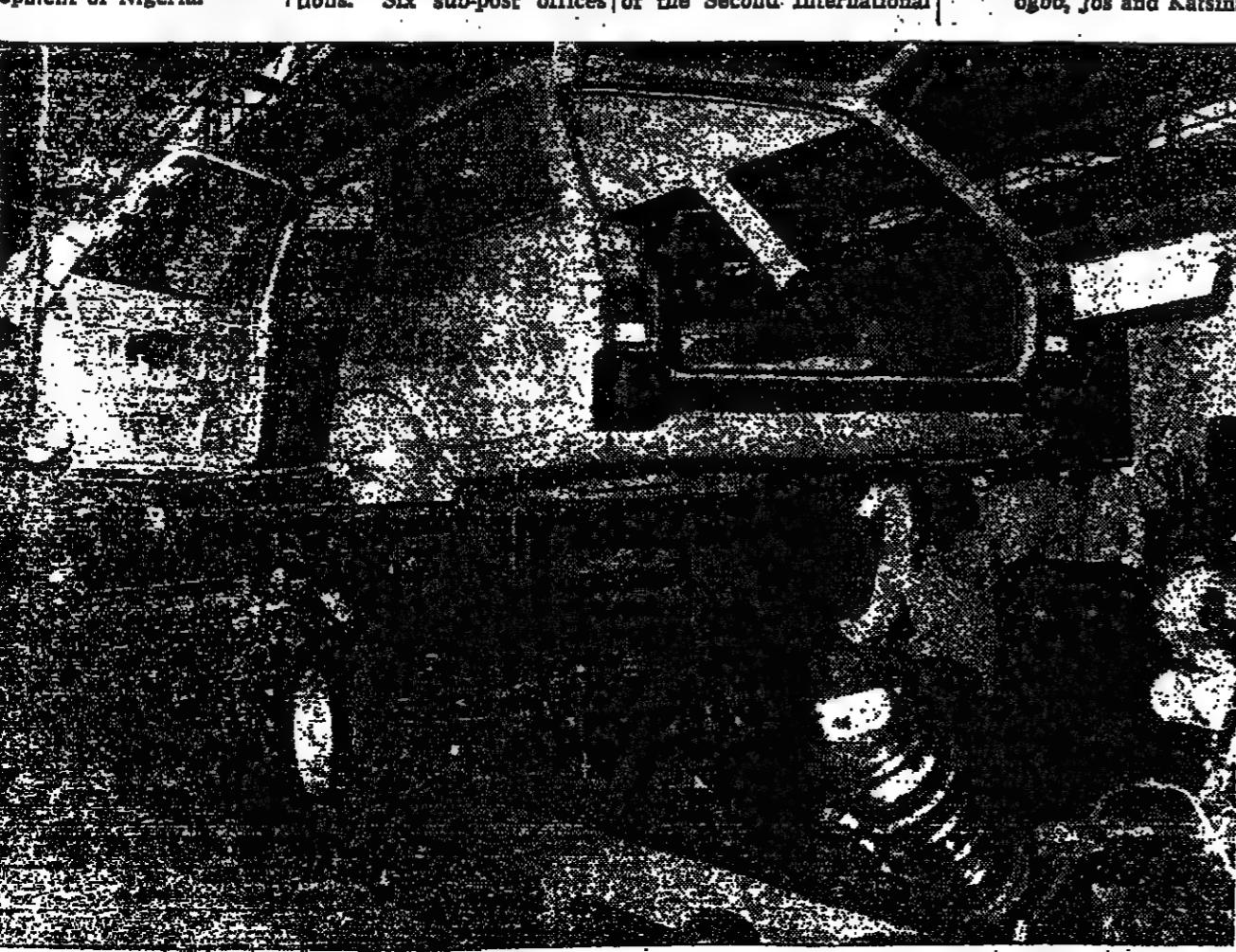
As a member of

Korea, Professor Ishaya Audu is the Minister of External Affairs.

Shehu Shagari attests to this philosophy.

This announcement has been issued by the Department of Information.

Further information about Nigeria can be obtained from Nigerian High Commissions or Embassies or direct from the Federal Director of Information, Office of the President, Department of Information, Republic Building, Marina, Lagos, Nigeria.



assembly plant



LABOUR'S PERILOUS WEEK

Even a few weeks ago it was widely believed that the Labour Party conference, which opens in Blackpool today, would be something of an anti-climax. Mr Callaghan had quietly secured the support of enough trade union leaders with their block votes to be sure of winning at least two out of the three critical votes on the party constitution. He would then bow gracefully out of the leadership to be succeeded by Mr Denis Healey at the head of a party that had been made safe for right-wingers to live in and for sensible, moderate people to support. Perhaps the cedes of political conduct could not always have been served, too much would have been determined in cosy chats between the leader and the union bosses, but the left would have been thwarted once again. Labour could then get on with a proper business of an agonized party.

So the analysis ran, but this comforting prospect no longer looks so realistic. This last week has demonstrated how risky it is to place too much reliance on salvation through the union vote. There has been in TUC either the beginning of purge of right-wingers, or a gloomily incompetent misuse of—or both. It is probably true that Mr Callaghan will win two out of the three constitutional questions on the nod of electing the leader and

the responsibility for the manifesto, but lose on mandatory reselection procedures for sitting MPs. The margin of victory on the method of electing the leader, however, is likely to be narrow; it may even remain in some doubt until the very last moment; and there is always the possibility of the decision being reversed at a later conference.

In other words, it would be foolish to expect a few close votes on the party's constitution to settle everything. The problems go deeper than that. The union leaders collectively are not

sufficiently reliable in the exercise of the massive power they possess within the party, and there are the objections of principle to their possession of that power at all. The relationship of the unions to the party was raised in general terms by the twelve right-wing Labour MPs, whose statement was published in *The Times* a week ago. The question has come up again more specifically over the past few days in the furor over union financing of the party.

For the time being, this particular conflict seems to have been smoothed over. But it illustrates how naive it is to expect the unions to give up their entrenched power within the party so long as they remain the paymaster. Indeed, they have been using this command of the purse strings to seek still more control. Nor is it simply a matter of money. The unions are built into

its own. It will have to be interwoven with other restraints, including especially the widening of nomination procedures contained in the Helsinki agreement, which is to be reviewed in Madrid in November.

There is even less immediate comfort in the other main element of deterrence, the attempt to agree on rules of international behaviour, and in particular on not seeking advantage from conflicts between smaller powers. In the early stages of deterrence there was always an unreal hankering on the American side for a stable world order. There is now greater acceptance of the need to ride with change. But whereas it was once thought that if only the "super powers" could agree, they could jointly assure world security it is now clear they could not. Their power is diminishing even in relations with their European allies, as the Russians find in Poland and President Carter finds in West Germany. Elsewhere controllable clients are in still shorter supply. The present war in the Middle East is the best and most obvious example. Iran is fighting with American arms, Iraq largely with Soviet arms, but the two suppliers stand virtually helpless on the sidelines.

Yet paradoxically there is the glint of a small silver lining in this particular cloud. Here, after all, is precisely what deterrence calls for—a joint refusal to back clients in a local conflict. Uncontrollable the war may be, to the danger of all, but at least it has not yet become an East-West confrontation.

had the Crossman Diaries, which are less worth their weight in gold, and now the Castle Diaries.

It may be doubted whether, taken together, the output of books from Labour ministers has done much more than build a haystack in which politicians today and historians to come will have increasing difficulty in finding the needles they search for.

With the exception of Gordon Walker's book on the Cabinet, a slim though serious work, the authors have been subjectively involved in polemics and chapter after chapter has continued to press home the case for the view they took in Cabinet against the Prime Minister or a group of colleagues. It is mainly a ho-hum-chauvinist testimony, and sometimes (as with Crossman) designed partly to prove a pre-conceived thesis, or (as with Mrs Castle) to prove that she was a better socialist than most of the

other party. The whole point of politics is that concessions, when the fighting ends, have eventually had to be made on the parts to create the whole, for otherwise there would be as many political parties as there are politicians and nothing at all would be achieved. Hence the sound rule of Cabinet collective responsibility and the clear invitation to resign or accept dismissal from ministerial jobs at the time of the Cabinet's final decision at which Cabinet members who oppose him a party. Why, on the evidence of the diaries and the books, were there so few Labour resignations or dismissals at the top? What kept in place the critics of Harold Wilson, and James Callaghan?

Let us come to the diaries as a genre of insider political information, and consider their reliability as evidence. Consider Dick Crossman speaking into his tape recorder towards the end of every ministerial week, or Mrs Castle confiding to her diary, at an uncharacteristically early hour this morning, especially since both apparently had publicised their political secretaries. Then we

may be, like Creevey's "Chips" Channon, the depository for the Nigel Dempster kind.

But a diary designed for publication at a date not too long delayed to deny the diaries and his heirs financial benefit, is of its nature a private communication with the soul. It can be only a self-conscious continuation of an argument taken up, an appeal to an audience that is already beginning to form, or of course self-indulgence akin to a child's fears of frustration. It allows for no change of mind.

And, as Mr Foot points out in his review, fellow members of a close-knit group, like a Cabinet, can scarcely fail to be uninvolved, as a ministerial argument rages, to see the likes of Mrs Castle or Mr Wedgwood Batten taking copious notes, or to realize that the late Dick Crossman had appointed himself a Recording Angel. What should their answer be? Must they too become diarists, send an agent to a Sunday supplement to comfort them with a cheque in their age?

I suggest that the ministerial memoir or diary is absurdly running out of control, and that there is something to be said for a period of silence between Crossman's resignation and publication. What we need, and what eventually the historians of our time will need, is more perspective than the self-consciously written instant record allows; and this a historian knows. His conclusions are to be accepted as the final action in schools is the deputy head.

If there is a case to be made for clarifying the duties and responsibilities of the head teacher in an education system in which professionalism is no longer generally practised, there is an even stronger argument for looking at the position of the deputy head. He is usually the person whose day-to-day decisions and activities determine both the efficient running of a school and the state of its morale.

Many diaries are being torn apart in the battle between heads who wish to keep their schools going and assistant teachers who, in obedience to union instructions, seek to disrupt them. Yours faithfully,

Plea for release of Mr Nelson Mandela

From the Archbishop of Wales and others

Sir, Nelson Mandela, leader of the African National Congress of South Africa, has now been a prisoner on Robben Island for more than 17 years. He was given a five-year sentence in November, 1962, and again brought to court as one of the accused in the Rivonia trial in October, 1963. In November, 1964, he was sentenced to life imprisonment.

His continued incarceration and that of his fellow prisoners has deprived South Africa of a vital leadership which is of crucial importance at this time. In his statement delivered from the dock during the Rivonia trial Nelson Mandela said:

"Above all, we want equal political rights, social, without them our disabilities will be permanent. I know this sounds revolutionary to the whites in this country because the majority of voters will be Africans. This makes the white man fear democracy. But the fear cannot stand in the way of the only solution which will guarantee racial harmony and freedom for all."

"During my lifetime I have dedicated myself to the struggle of the African people. I have fought against white domination and I have fought again against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I have to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

These are sentiments with which we in Britain would wish to identify ourselves, as we do with the campaign for his release initiated by people in South Africa itself. This campaign has received the support of many different organizations within the country (who are united in this demand). Outside South Africa a number of government, organizations, and individuals, and notably the United Nations Security Council, in June this year, voted unanimously for the release of Nelson Mandela and all political

prisoners in South Africa. In July all Commonwealth countries, in a statement issued by the secretary in London, called for Mandela's immediate and unconditional release.

The rising scale of South African Government repression and violence has led to a confirmation which will, in turn, lead to further and more widespread bloodshed. Brinian has a special responsibility in the area and the release of Nelson Mandela and his fellow prisoners, behind whom so many different elements in the country are united, will be a tremendous step forward in the transformation of that unhappy land.

We therefore urge all people of good will to support this campaign through all means available to them.

Yours faithfully,

GWILYMD CADBRENSIS:

JOSEPH CLEARY, President, Commission for International Justice and Peace of the Catholic Episcopal Conference of England and Wales;

L. JOHN COLLINS, Chairman, British Defence and Aid Fund;

ALASTAIR EDENBURGEN, Primes, Scottish Episcopal Church;

KENNETH G. GRIECE, President, Methodist Conference;

JOHN JOHNSON-BERG, Moderator, General Assembly of the United Reformed Church;

W. B. JOHNSTON, Moderator, General Assembly of the Church of Scotland;

PHILIP MORGAN, General Secretary, British Council of Churches;

MILDRED NEVILLE, General Secretary, Catholic Institute of International Relations;

D. S. RUSSELL, General Secretary, Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland;

GRAHAM TRURO, Chairman, Royal Institute of Social Responsibility, The Church of England, Defence and Aid Fund Ltd, 2 Amen Court, EC4.

September 25.

whose petitions they receive. This could be managed in the following way.

The House of Commons would appoint a Human Rights select committee. It would consist of back-benchers. Its function would be to receive and enquire into individual petitions, comprising the breaches of the Convention. Its hearings would be open to the public. Its findings, in the form of a report either rejecting the complaint or making recommendations to the Government on how to remedy it and prevent its recurrence, would be published. As now, public pressure would help secure its implementation.

Back-benchers are traditionally watch-dogs on the acts of the Executive. From earliest times the House of Commons has received the petitions of citizens. Such a select committee, operating on non-party lines, would restore to the House of Commons some of its ancient importance as a citizens' champion. No doubt it would be guided by the machinery of the European convention. Its decisions would acquire a validity not possessed by the machinery of the European convention. They would be democratic.

Yours sincerely,

FRANCIS BENNION

As from: The Tower Hotel, St Katharine's Way, E1.

that kind was unknown? How could a fourteenth-century artist have envisaged such a face—stylistically it is totally different from the art of that period? If it would be as absurd as to imagine Rembrandt painting a Picasso? How could an artist paint on a flat surface the back and front of a crucified man so accurately that a computer can now create the three-dimensional figure which must have been contained in the cloth?

These arguments are not dismissed simply by saying that traces of iron oxide have been found on the cloth. The image on the Shroud remains as enigmatic as ever and science, far from answering the problem, has merely added new ones.

Clifford Longley ended his account with the words: "Former Shroud believers appear to have had their faith shaken by his conclusions". It is surely of vital importance to point out that the Shroud, if it is genuine, is at the most only a reassurance, and if it were proved to be a forgery, it should not weaken the faith of anyone. The faith cannot be proved; it would not be faith if it could be.

Yours faithfully,

MARTIN HAIGH, Ampleforth Abbey, York.

September 24.

Shrouded in mystery

From the Reverend Martin Haigh, OSB

Sir, Clifford Longley's balanced account (September 19) of the talk given by Dr McCrone contrasted well with the unfortunate headline in the *Catholic Herald*: "Turin shroud is a fake, says top United States scientist".

I was present at that meeting from which, it was understood, the press were to be excluded. Dr McCrone refused to comment himself on the question and stated that he had found traces of iron oxide on the image on the Shroud, which would seem to point either to the Shroud's being painted or perhaps to the image being enhanced at some later date. This may, of course, be other possibilities. His conclusion was that the Turin authorities must now allow the carbon 14 test to determine accurately the age of the cloth.

It is much too soon to jump to the conclusion that the image on the Shroud is the work of an artist in the fourteenth century. The evidence to the contrary is still immensely strong. How could any artist of that time have envisaged a negative image and then painted it? How could he have guessed correctly so many anatomical and medical details, as for instance the bloodstains, with such accuracy at a time when detailed knowledge of

that kind was unknown?

How could an artist paint on a flat surface the back and front of a crucified man so accurately that a computer can now create the three-dimensional figure which must have been contained in the cloth?

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Yours faithfully,

MARTIN HAIGH, Ampleforth Abbey, York.

September 24.

Heads and strikes

From Mr P. Dawson

Sir, Mr David Hart (September 25) is right, but he does not go far enough. It is not only the role of the school head which is misinterpreted. The person who is placed in the most difficult position of all by the new strike rules is the deputy head.

If there is a case to be made for clarifying the duties and responsibilities of the head teacher in an education system in which professionalism is no longer generally practised, there is an even stronger argument for looking at the position of the deputy head. He is usually the person whose day-to-day decisions and activities determine both the efficient running of a school and the state of its morale.

Many deputies are being torn apart in the battle between heads who wish to keep their schools going and assistant teachers who, in obedience to union instructions, seek to disrupt them.

Yours faithfully,

PETER DAWSON, General Secretary, Professional Association of Teachers.

99 Friar Gate, Derby.

September 25.

Death pays a dividend

From Lord Rayne

Sir, I tuned in to ITV late last night (September 22) to catch the rail end of the twenty-fifth anniversary celebrations and was intrigued to be greeted by the indomitable Lord Grade launching into a not wholly apocryphal anecdote involving Laurence Olivier and myself.

He concerned negotiations relating to the recording by ATV of *The National Theatre production of "Long Day's Journey into Night"*, an Olivier tour de force. The author of the play, however, had time permitted, Lew might have gone on to mention our subsequent discussion over the similar recording of *Merchant of Venice* and his insistence on momentary disconnection on being reminded that that got a little more.

It is always fun to do business with Lew. Long may he and his infant prodigy of an industry flourish—and extend its collaboration with the subsidized arts.

Yours sincerely,

MAX RAYNE, 33 Robert Adam Street, W1.

September 23.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mental illness and the public interest

From Mr Christopher Price, MP for Lewisham West (Labour)

Sir, I was concerned to read the criticism of MIND by Sir Martin Roth (September 13). He seems particularly unhappy about the way in which allegations of unmodified ECT and physical brutality at Broadmoor were presented to the public. It is worth recalling that the use of unmodified ECT was proved, and that no final judgment about the allegations of brutality can be drawn simply from the police's decision not to bring charges. It is notoriously difficult to achieve a judicial standard of proof in such matters. For myself, I was impressed by the integrity of the two nurses who made the allegations, and I could find no possible motive for their having done so.

It is, however, as the father of a daughter who has been mentally ill for nearly 20 years, I have no professional knowledge of psychiatry, but I have been an interested observer of the mental health scene ever since my daughter became ill. I have watched fashions in treatment and attitudes change and change back again over the years. Many of these have, in my view, been harmful and cruel to both patients and their relatives, although some recent changes have improved recently. The policies of MIND have, however, not changed, and carry considerable dangers with them. These dangers have been evident for several years, and my wife and I resigned from MIND in 1976 on account of them.

The crux of the matter is that mental illness raises problems for hospital staff, relatives, and for the community generally, and not only for patients themselves. In particular, a mentally ill person in the community may cause misery and great distress to relatives, not to mention staff. For the sick person to spend some time in hospital may be necessary for the health of the family as well as that of the patient.

The emphasis on civil liberties, however, makes it more difficult than it otherwise would be for the mentally ill to obtain hospital treatment. Doctors may be frightened to make compulsory orders, or to retain patients (even voluntary patients) in hospital, when this would otherwise be desirable. And when patients are in hospital, doctors and nurses may be reluctant to administer much-needed treatment, since some measure of compulsion may be involved.

The Chairman of MIND says that "mentally ill and handicapped people must be the central focus of our concern and responsibility". This is quite wrong, at least as interpreted by MIND. Because mental illness presents problems for many others, apart from those who are ill. Compassion and concern is needed for all who are affected. To emphasize the well above the ill is not only to deal with a small aspect of the problem, but is likely to lead to far more important aspects being neglected.

Yours faithfully,

AUBREY SILBERSTON, Imperial College of Science and Technology, Department of Social and Economic Studies, 53 Prince's Gate, Exhibition Road, SW7.

September 22.

A narrow interest

From Mr Charles Cory-Wright

Sir, I read with interest your correspondent Michael Hamlyn's ideas regarding the unrealized potential of British (and in particular, Fleet Street) newspapers to raise the point. The

Bleak outlook
for Britain's
house builders,
page 17

THE TIMES MONDAY SEPTEMBER 29 1980

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

■ Stock Markets
FT Ind 481.0
FT Cills 70.02
■ Sterling
\$2.5920
Index 76.1
■ Dollar
Index 83.8
DM1.8040
■ Gold
\$569.50
■ Money
3 mth sterling 152-154
3 mth Euro S 133-134
6 mth Euro S 134-135
Friday's close

IN BRIEF

Japan leads output of commercial vehicles

Japan over took the US last year as the world's biggest manufacturer of vans and vans, according to Daimler-Benz. Figures in its annual report—which it admits partly estimates—show it produced 3.46 million commercial vehicles, 413,000 in the US and 408,000 in Britain. Although American car sales were eight per cent lower, it produced 843,000 vans to Japan's 6.17 million. Japanese threat on European car markets is more worryingly the oil crisis and the economic recession, says Kenji Tomioka, chairman of Volks-Audi, said.

That Japanese sales account for 15 per cent of the German market in August, id. "We will not allow Japanese to export their movement to Europe. We are up to the Japanese with all our strength."

UK Steel sale

UK Steel is selling unit, a testing and quality control company, to the Vincotte Group, for an undisclosed sum. The company's 230 people at its headquarters in Swindon and branch and laboratories elsewhere in Britain.

UK traffic control
Kenneth Clarke, Parliamentary Secretary at the Ministry of Transport, said a new system of urban traffic control, developed by road scientists GEC and Plessey, had export potential.

UK joint venture
A joint venture, Costain Spie, has been set up by Civil Engineering and Spie Cagip, specialists of Rungis. It has been formed to out land-based transport and distribution projects and mechanical engineering contracts with pipeline work United Kingdom.

UK power need
The world will have to accept standards of living if to do without nuclear power, Dr Walter Marshall, chairman of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Agency, said. The only hope living standards next was the controversial nuclear power, he said.

UK shipping markets
A period of relative stability with fewer of the sharp falls of the recent past is to Lambert Brothers, fuel's shipping arm, in est market analysis.

UK with Kenya
Sir Parkinson, Minister for Trade, starts a visit to Kenya today improving trade. Last year's suppliers were the exporters to Kenya, 23 per cent of the compared with the competitor, West Germany, 11 per cent.

UK discount sales
The plant hire industry has been growing at more than 10 per cent a year, according to a report published by the UK Business Rates, est information spec-

UK discount rate up
Used its discount rate 10 per cent yesterday from record high of 15 per cent any speculation in markets as a result of government crisis.

Finance ministers urge IMF to raise more money in private markets

From David Blake
and Frank Vogl
Washington, Sept 28

through international financial institutions.

Finance ministers from leading industrial nations have given new impetus to International Monetary Fund studies of how the fund can directly raise money in the private markets. Herr Karl Otto Pöhl, the West German Federal Bank Governor, said that such borrowing would make the fund "less vulnerable to blackmail by the surplus nations".

The ministers meeting here in preparation for the annual meeting of the World Bank and the IMF, agreed that the fund must increase its lending volume. To secure this the fund's primary source of cash should be its quota of borrowing from its member countries, followed by direct borrowing from the Open surplus countries. Market borrowing by the fund should be seen as supplementary.

But it seems increasingly likely that such support will be needed. The fund needs to raise about \$6,000m or \$7,000m in immediate payments problems and the bank specializes in longer term development issues.

Hopes that this could be raised direct from countries such as Saudi Arabia have suffered from Arab bitterness about the exclusion of the Palestine Liberation Organization from the fund's annual meeting.

The developing countries are demanding much easier conditions for borrowing from the fund but the industrialized countries emphasize that they believe the fund must maintain its traditional role as a banker insisting on sound policies to cut deficits although they recognize that much more money will need to be available.

Despite the gloomy economic background which the industrial

nations believe rules out any prospects for stimulating the world economy, it is felt that unless there is cooperation to contain developing nations' deficits there could be a catastrophe next year. This gives the securing of further funds for the IMF great significance because it is clear that the commercial banks will have great difficulty in meeting the needs of developing countries.

The financing problems are serious for the fund as well. Although it has gold worth \$70,000m in its vaults, the fund is running out of cash and is expected to exhaust all its present sources by the middle of 1981.

Officials from industrial countries said that the fund would not seek deliberately to reduce the risks of the commercial banks in its lending operations. In financing borrowing the IMF became another "Euro bank".

Some fear that the fund will discover that it is too difficult to find ways to raise cash in the markets.

Long delays would be inevitable if the fund's charter had to be changed, or some form of governmental guarantee were needed that demand, for example, legislation in the United States.

Officials said that there is no longer any discussion about the IMF's substitution account, for the fund's total quota seems to have been achieved indefinitely.

The meeting of the IMF's interim committee had to overcome a problem even before it began today because Signor Filippo Maria Pandolfi, of Italy, the chairman, had to return home after his Government fell. The debate on lending

continued from the fund's annual meeting.

The seminar at Church House, Westminster, British academics and market practitioners will participate. Tomorrow's seminar, to be held at the Bank of England, will include overseas academic and central bankers.

The seminars are part of what is becoming a lengthy investigation to find better ways of controlling the money supply. Soon after the Government took office last May it expressed interest in the subject. But it was not until shortly before the Budget this spring, that a much delayed Green Paper on monetary control emerged.

In part this delay merely reflected the difficulty of the subject and the Bank's simultaneous work on proposals affecting banking, capital, foreign exchange exposure and liquidity.

But there was undoubtedly delaying as officials resisted ministerial pressure for fundamental changes that would greatly have reduced their control over interest rates.

One of the main issues to be discussed is whether officials or market forces should determine interest rates.

It remains to be seen who will get their way on how interest rates should be controlled but the need for a decision is becoming urgent. The Government is expected to announce its new monetary targets in early November, once the Treasury's mid-year forecasts are complete.

It may feel that it would be wiser to announce simultaneously at least the outline of improved methods of monetary control to build confidence in its ability and determination to meet new targets.

Currency manipulation: A General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade report said that floating exchange rates since 1973 have had only a minor effect on world trade and there is evidence that a government can manipulate its currency to gain unfair advantage (Reuters report).

But world trade continues to suffer from the lack of a single currency with stable purchasing power, a role first played by the pound sterling and later the United States dollar, the report said.

Gast, the international trade monitoring agency, said complaints by economists and businessmen that the present system of flexible exchange rates had distorted trade patterns and undermined efforts to reduce trade barriers were unfounded.

Driving business overseas

Page 17

Stone-Platt deal may save 200 jobs

By R. W. Shakespeare
Northern Industrial Correspondent

A factory "sale and lease back" deal made between Stone-Platt Industries and the local authority at Oldham, Lancashire, means that about 200 of 840 jobs due to go when the company closes its textile machinery manufacturing plant at the end of this year could now be saved.

Oldham Corporation has agreed to buy Stone-Platt's Hartford works for £1.25m and to lease back about a fifth of the total 500,000 sq ft of factory and office space to the company.

This will enable it to keep open its transmission manufacturing section and employ about 200 of the workers who have been facing redundancy for many months.

Stone-Platt has announced its plan to close all of the Oldham operations at the beginning of this year, blaming a worldwide recession in demand for textile machinery, a fall in orders for container refrigeration and other new products and the company's overall serious trading and cash situation.

At the same time, the company said the transmission section based at Oldham would be reviewed to see whether it could be run on a profitable basis if it was set up on a new site with lower overheads.

Discussions between the council, the company, and the bank have been taking place. The deal involves the council buying the freehold of the factory plus a site of nearly 13.5 acres. The company will take a lease on 100,000 sq ft of accommodation at an initial rent of £95,000 a year to house its transmissions unit.

THE POUND

Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
7.10	7.03	12.02	11.52	
31.85	30.15	122.00	116.50	
72.00	68.50	3.22	2.10	
2.66	2.78	179.00	171.50	
Kr 15.79	15.24	10.32	9.80	
12.12	8.74	1.30	1.30	
10.22	9.98	2.45	2.28	
DM 4.45	4.27			
106.80	106.00			
12.15	11.65			
1.12	1.14			
215.98	200.00			
335.98	316.00			
5 Gld 4.55	4.54			

Notes for small denominations bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Private sector in talks on public purchasing

By Our Industrial Editor

The Government is to start talks with the private sector on purchasing policy. The move is intended to improve coordination between the two sectors and boost the competitiveness of British products.

The Prime Minister and Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, are the chief movers of the policy which the Government believes will lead to a strengthening of British industry's world wide competitiveness.

Public sector purchases by both central and local government and by the state industries run into thousands of millions of pounds a year and ministers believe that both purchasers and producers could benefit from a much closer relationship.

Over the weekend, Mr Michael Marshall, junior Industry Minister, disclosed that the Government would be talking to individual companies about its new approach.

Pressure grows to curb inflation and boost investment

Right turn for America's economy

A shift to the right has taken place in the American economic policy debate. This is encouraging economists to believe that the Federal authorities will move in the right direction to curb inflation and boost industrial investment.

Mr Henry Wallace, a governor of the Federal Reserve Board, told a business conference recently: "There is a widely held suspicion that when the chips are down, government action will again be found to favour rather than combat inflation."

Some of those executives attending the conference said that for the first time they disagreed with this assertion. This is considerable evidence to suggest that the Federal Reserve is overly pessimistic.

First, even though the United States is in recession, with more than eight million unemployed, there are few politicians in the current election campaign calling for stimulative fiscal and monetary policies.

Second, the tax cutting plans of President Carter and Mr Ronald Reagan, the two leading presidential candidates, involve

a big reduction of business taxes to stimulate investment.

Third, there has been barely any political criticism of the Fed in this election campaign despite the recession. Interest rates are still high and not even President Carter, a traditional opponent of high rates, has uttered a single rebuke.

Finally, the deep concern with inflation is leading increasing numbers of economists to argue strongly against any form of tax cuts.

Many of the senior corporate executives attending the New York Conference Board's "economic outlook" meeting agreed with Governor Wallace's view that a premature tax cut that drives up the budget deficit and increases rates without reducing the size of the public sector can be very damaging.

We would be moving toward a fiscal-monetary mix of easy budgets and tight money, exactly the opposite of what our economy needs, if productivity is to recover.

The belief that the political environment in 1981 will be right for tight Fed and austere fiscal policies is influencing the forecasts of experts. It is an important consideration

behind the forecasts of Mr Albert Sommers, chief economist at the Conference Board, who predicts just one per cent real economic growth next year and some slowdown in the inflation rate, possibly to 9 per cent.

Mr J. Robert Ferrari, chief economist of the Prudential Insurance Company, believes the Fed will move ahead and may restrict narrow money stock growth to between 5% and 6% per cent next year.

No doubts if real gross national product will be above 2% per cent, but he feels confident that the tight public policies ahead will reduce inflation expectations and contribute to a general lowering of interest rates". He sees long-term rates down about 2 per cent within a year.

Mr Robert Holland, head of the committee for economic development and a former Fed governor, accurately reflects the mood of business today in saying: "If we try to use an inflationary recovery to get out of the recession, the results will be to bend the system so badly that repair may be impossible".

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in the annual report for the year to 26 April 1980 may be obtained from the Secretary

HILLARDS

A year of progress

GORDON HUNTER, Chairman

1980

1979

Turnover £119,428,000 £103,759,000

Profit before tax £2,231,000 £2,537,000

Earnings per share 22.93p 13.44p

Dividends for the year 4.25p 3.50p

Net assets per share 87p 69p

The annual report for the year to 26 April 1980 may be obtained from the Secretary

HILLARDS LIMITED

Span Lane, Gomersal, Cleckheaton, West Yorkshire BD19 4PW

Apple growers
get a taste
for the
battle, page 16



Sir Terence Beckett: tough task on disclosure.

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MANAGEMENT

The campaign by British apple growers to resist the onslaught of the French Golden Delicious is being waged at two levels. At the high profile level they issue lurid warnings about the ultimate impact of French domination of the apple market. At the other end of the scale they strive to eliminate the marketing advantages which have made the French apple so attractive to British shoppers.

The high-profile approach is exemplified by Mr Dan Neutelboom, chairman of the apple and pear committee of the National Farmers' Union. He said in August: "English apple eaters, beware. They grab our fish. They refuse our lamb. They destroy our livelihoods wherever they can."

Dutch-born Mr Neutelboom, who has farmed in Suffolk for 20 years, is the front man in the largely abortive efforts to persuade French growers to send fewer apples to Britain. The real problem of the apple market in the EEC is entirely of French origin," he said. "The French consume 500,000 tonnes and produce 11 million tonnes."

He is one of the new faces which have appeared after a small revolution in the horticulture division of the National Farmers' Union. The clear-cut has left the growers' end of the union with a notably sharper edge. At the same time, the Apple and Pear Development Council, a body paid for with levy from growers and with members appointed by ministers, has been revamped and given a new brief with greater emphasis on marketing.

Another Government-appointed body, the Central Council for Agricultural and Horticultural Cooperation, has been brought into play.

When prices of English apples fell in 1978, the development council told growers to market larger and better apples in 1979. They did so, only to find the market swamped early in the season by cheap fruit from France. Some growers realized then that the existing marketing structure had to be improved if the industry was to survive, let alone hold its market share.

Research showed that since British import quotas on apples had been dropped at the time of accession to the EEC, French imports had increased eightfold. Skiffl and lavish promotion had ensured that the French apple had gained a firm hold, especially in areas remote from

the main commercial orchards in southern England.

Last year more than half of all apples sold in Scotland were French Golden Delicious. British growers claimed that their French rivals were receiving unfair hidden subsidies and appealed to the British Government for aid.

It was an unpropitious time: the Government was trying hard to cut public spending while Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, was wedded to the idea of British agriculture improving its fortunes through better marketing. He made his views clear early this year at a Conservative Party meeting in Berkshire. "If growers think hidden subsidies are the only problem, they are kidding themselves," he said.

The plea for aid was quietly dropped and the industry began to make a determined effort to improve its marketing. It was helped by the success of an unusual new organization, called the Women's Farming Union. This was formed last year by the wives of Kent fruit growers to coordinate the defence of all sectors of the British food-producing industries which faced hard competition from abroad.

The union is led by Mrs Margaret Charrington, an apple grower with formidable powers of organization and persuasion. She has been instrumental in keeping the 50 per cent rise in English apple prices without permission both in the private and public sector. At present it is combined with neither sufficient inducements to uphold its principles, nor penalties for not doing so. It is unfortunate, (and a little inept) for the government

Apple growers develop a taste for battle

Polish up your English

le crunch le crunch

Signs of competition in British greengrocers' shops.



The winning "Adventure workshop" team from Australia: (left to right) Mr David Pettigrew, Mr John Odgers, Mr Peter Jones, Mr Mark Frecheville, Ms Susanne Vasilescu, Mr Peter Hart, and Mr James Sayers.

Study tour for young innovators

An "Adventure" workshop in innovation and entrepreneurship led to seven young Australian graduates packing their bags and setting off on an all-expenses paid trip around businesses in America, West Germany and Britain.

The journey was sponsored by the Australian Department of Productivity, Commerce and Industry and reflects the growing concern in Australia that young technically qualified people, with entrepreneurial flair, should be given an encouragement and opportunity to present and practise their ideas.

The adventure workshop in Australia, which cost A\$250,000 (£125,000) of which two-thirds was provided by government and the remainder by business.

The winning team chose to analyse and assess the potential of a solar heater.

By the end of the summer the team was on its way to Europe and America on a trip sponsored by commerce and

industry, at a cost of A\$35,000, with a brief to examine dozens of technologically based companies employing fewer than 100 people.

How valuable has the project been? According to the Australian government: "New technology based firms at present play virtually no role in the nation's economy. However, there is a shortage of people with the training and the experience to develop and manage such firms."

Seven teams of six were selected and brought together at an Australian university last December. There they were asked to pick one of six new technological inventions, assess it commercially and present a full five-year business plan to the market the product.

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By the end of the summer the team was on its way to Europe and America on a trip sponsored by commerce and

industry, at a cost of A\$35,000, with a brief to examine dozens of technologically based companies employing fewer than 100 people.

How valuable has the project been? According to the Australian government: "New technology based firms at present play virtually no role in the nation's economy. However, there is a shortage of people with the training and the experience to develop and manage such firms."

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

World interest rates still rising

heady upward spiral in short-term interest rates is showing no signs of letting up. Last week's increase in the United States discount rate sent six-month dollars up another half point to 13½ per cent amid growing worry about the rate of American monetary growth.

Nevertheless, throughout UDI Corwyn suffered no inhibition because it was remitted to South Africa. Those profits made their way to the United Kingdom.

The outcome, therefore, is that a company which was able to remit dividends during UDI to its parent, whether directly or indirectly, now finds that the way is partly blocked. For some receipts could be less than during UDI. Companies will doubtless make a virtue out of necessity by reinvesting in Zimbabwe, as the government wants.

If Zimbabwe's foreign exchange position deteriorates the rules might be tightened. Zimbabwe's gold mines may not be as rewarding as they seem.

Insurance markets

A boost for Lloyd's

To the insurance world at least the Iran-Iraq hostilities have as far proved anything but disastrous. Lloyd's of London, for example—an institution sorely in need of some good publicity—may have seen immeasurable gains to its international prestige as a result of the conflict.

Ship-owners with Gulf business have been queuing up in the past week to secure Lloyd's cover, not because they like the rates—up to 3 per cent of hull value for a 7-day Gulf voyage for instance—but because they have simply been unable to get similar cover elsewhere.

Substantial business is ever understood to have come in the market from an international oil major which had hitherto placed all business in the US. Apparently it found American markets either reluctant or technically unable to supply the sort of "one-off" cover which Lloyd's syndicates can offer at moment's notice.

Rightly, Lloyd's old international reputation for flexibility and expertise has received a considerable boost.

Quite apart from the excitement at Lloyd's, there have been some hopes particularly among the broking community which controls a large slice of the underwriting action in the market; that these developments could trigger a real sea-change across the whole marine and aviation insurance fronts. The hope is that higher rates could begin to ripple through international markets on the back of mounting anxiety.

However that view looks optimistic given no signs as yet of any fall-off in international insurance capacity. Nor is this capacity likely to diminish until interest rates worldwide implications are considerable, indirectly through its South African subsidiary, Consolidated Mines. Corwyn controls gold mining interests in Zimbabwe, which are considerable, indirectly through its South African subsidiary controls at the gold mines in Zimbabwe, a very small, the high price of gold makes properties attractive, and some particularly American, have Corwyn shares partly for their potential earnings.

Quality of those earnings must now be tested, not least because of Corwyn's standing in Zimbabwe and the remittances through a South African company are not helped by the relations between Zimbabwe and the Republic.

Foreign companies operating in Zimbabwe are of course subject to the rules, remittances may constitute up to 50 per cent of declared dividends after tax. In half must either be ploughed back into another Zimbabwe company which earn 4 per cent interest payable in six annual instalments. A basic rule applies in different companies. On the one hand they are domiciled in the United States or Canada, current or not remittable until after April. This means that a company like Newall, which received no dividends throughout the 15 years of UDI, has been longer.

On the other hand, companies domiciled in countries suffer no restrictions on turnover so sharply that underwriters are unable to go on absorbing huge underwriting losses with investment returns.

Recent results from Willis Faber, Sedgwick Group, Alexander Howden, and the like have proved that for all the gloom about sterling's strength and weak rates brokers at least are hardly in desperate straits.

Profits are flat or sliding and could shrink further but they still compare favourably with other industries. And prestige stocks in the sector could come in for support on the view that if they can hold their own in these conditions they could start to fly when the turnaround eventually comes.

Business Diary profile: Trevor Holdsworth and BIM



Helping managers to keep in step with the music: Trevor Holdsworth, the new chairman of the British Institute of Management.

His accountancy training will come in handy at BIM, where the annual report shows, income is not leaping up with expenditure.

While it is having to cut many of its services to save money, the institute is a formidable force in business education. It is not itself an examining body, but has representatives on all the main national education committees. It also runs seminars to up-date managers.

Holdsworth, who is chairman of the Institute of Management, is a youthful looking 53, with a dark-suited appearance quite unlike that of his predecessor at the BIM, Leslie Tolley, who is chairman of Renold, a company whose products include roller chains, gears, clutches and hydraulic motors, and who is an engineer through and through.

Like Tolley, who started with Morris Motors at 16 as an apprentice in production engineering, Holdsworth has worked his way up through the ranks. Born and educated in Bradford, Yorkshire, he trained as an accountant in a practice in his home town.

He left in 1951 and joined the Bowater Paper Corporation, where he moved through various financial and administrative appointments to become director and controller of United Kingdom papermaking subsidiaries eleven years later.

Holdsworth's voice is quiet, his manner is diffident and he listens much more than he speaks. It would be a great mistake, however, to underestimate him because of his affability. Underneath lies a forceful, determined character.

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His own particular style of leadership may be far from flamboyant, but while he prefers to guide rather than drive, he recognises that leadership can take many different forms which can be equally effective. Whether form it takes, he likes to encourage more of it in industry.

لondon times

THE TIMES MONDAY SEPTEMBER 29 1980

Peter Wainwright

A bleak outlook for house builders



Only 13,400 new houses were started in the private sector in July compared with 22,500 in July last year and there is no sign that the downward trend is changing.

While house sales slacken, builders are coping with big increases in costs. Over the past year, these have ranged from a fifth to a half. Last May building workers got a 21 per cent wage award. In April bricks went up 30 per cent. Wood and cement have both risen strongly, cement by 24 per cent in early spring.

The reasons are not far to seek. One in 12 workers is on the dole and others wonder when they will join them. Less overtime is being worked, a bleak winter lies ahead and people think twice about buying homes.

Such decisions involve borrowing at high interest rates and couples keeping to tight budgets are not necessarily confined by the thought of tax relief. The big banks and insurance companies are moving into the mortgage market, but for the average borrower, the only avenue open—and the cheapest—remains the building society. Mortgages will cheapen only when interest rates fall.

HOUSEBUILDING STARTS AND COMPLETIONS

1971-79

Thousands of dwellings

	Starts			Completions		
	Public	Private	Total	Public	Private	Total
1971	195.9	77.4	344.3	168.8	191.8	350.8
1972	123.0	22.2	145.2	122.5	195.5	319.3
1973	112.8	215.7	328.5	105.5	189.8	294.3
1974	146.1	105.9	252.1	128.6	140.9	269.5
1975	173.8	149.1	322.9	162.3	150.8	313.0
1976	170.8	154.7	325.4	183.0	152.2	315.2
1977	132.1	134.8	266.9	182.5	140.3	302.7
1978	107.4	157.3	264.7	130.7	148.8	279.2
1979	80.3	140.8	220.9	101.2	134.5	235.6

Source: Dept of the Environment

The group plans to put this right.

Meanwhile, it is comforted by the thought that it has an unusually high proportion of customers who are young couples buying homes for the first time. This market is said to be fairly insensitive to the normal house building cycle.

Barratt also keeps its houses moving by the not unusual trade-in deals on client's old houses. But not every house-builder has the money to do this and accepting old houses only gives builder the job of selling them in turn. But if the housing cycle soon spins upward such policies will pay off.

Then again, many house-builders, shaken by the 1974-75 experience, have been establishing a steady rental income from property. M. P. Kent is a striking example, and the shares are now highly valued.

It is, however, dangerous to generalise. Coombe Wimpey, which is just about as big as Barratt in numbers of homes built, also appeals to young couples buying their first home. It reported last week that on Barratt's heels, that fewer of them were putting down money on new houses. It seems that Wimpey and Barratt build houses in different places.

Nobody doubts that interest rates will fall—eventually. The pent-up demand for housing is huge and politically dangerous to ignore. Moreover, the private sector will have to satisfy the bulk of it because the Government is forcing local authorities out of the market.

In the short-run, the benefits of private house-builders who get off on surplus land they can buy at a discount are clear. But in the not so short run when interest rates fall and council rents rise, many council tenants may feel like buying the homes in which they are living, and the Government is leaning on building societies to satisfy the demand.

The trouble is that the societies are finding it harder to meet mortgage needs. Over the years house prices rise faster than their take of savings, and now the banks and the Government itself through "Granny bonds" are competing for building society customers. Something will have to give.

Will too tight a grip on banking drive business overseas?

• It is proving difficult enough to control the level of money balances in Britain, but sterling deposits in the Bahamas and Bahrain would be even more elusive.

of business are less likely to be within the ambit of regulation of the monetary authorities.

These much debated questions are important not only because of their bearing on the soundness of financial institutions, but also because they affect monetary control. Regrettably they are not on the agenda of the monetary control seminar, organized by the Treasury, held today.

Instead, the main topic will be whether the authorities should shift to manipulating the money supply through changes in the monetary base rather than as at present by discretionary variations in interest rates. This emphasis is misplaced, since no monetary control technique will be successful unless the overall framework of regulation is right.

The Green Paper on monetary control explains the point with particular clarity. In paragraph 1.13, it says that "any administrative interference with banks will almost certainly reduce competition within the controlled sector and between the controlled and uncontrolled sectors." This sector is the banking system.

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Public and Educational
Appointments also on page 10

PLYMOUTH
POLYTECHNIC

DEPUTY DIRECTOR
(RESOURCES)

The present holder of this post, Captain G. R. Hughes, M.B.E., is to retire in April 1981 and the Governing Body now invite applications for the post. Governors would also be pleased to hear of suitable candidates from third parties.

The successful candidate will be an academic with senior management experience in a polytechnic, university or at senior level in industry, commerce, or the professions.

Salary £18,797 within the Burnham Vice Principal Group 10 Scale.

Application forms with further particulars can be obtained from the Clerk to the Governors Plymouth Polytechnic, Drake Circus, Plymouth PL4 8AA.

Drake Circus, Plymouth, Devon, PL4 8AA

HEADSHIPS
ESSEX
BRENTWOOD SCHOOL

Applications are invited for the post of Headmaster which will become vacant on 1st September, 1981, on the retirement of Mr. Richard Sale, M.A., who has been Headmaster since 1956.

THE APPOINTMENT

Applicants should be graduates and communicant members of the Church of England. The Headmaster will be required to live in a house which will be provided. The salary and allowances will be by negotiation.

THE APPLICATION

Applications, which should be sent to The Clerk to the Governors, Brentwood School, Essex CM15 8AS, should include a full Curriculum Vitae and the names and addresses of three referees.

The closing date for applications is the 18th October, 1980.

JERSEY—CHANNEL ISLANDS
JERSEY COLLEGE FOR GIRLS

Applications are invited for appointment as

HEAD

to take effect from 1st September 1981, on the retirement of Mrs E. M. Poole B.A. Further information and application forms available from Director of Education, P.O. Box 142, Highlands, St. Saviour, Jersey. Closing date—31st October.

INNER LONDON PROBATION AND AFTER-CARE COMMITTEE

CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER

This post, which is now being restructured, will become vacant on 1st September 1981. Applications should be sent to the Chief Probation Officer, Mr. W. H. Pearce, C.B.E., D.M., Chief Inspector of Prisons.

The successful applicant will need to have management experience and the ability to give effective leadership in the development of a progressive Service.

The appointment is open to all, subject to the Probation Rules and the Conditions of Service. Salary £17,820—£29,024 plus London Weighting.

Application forms and further information are available from the Director of Probation, 73 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 2BN. (Telephone: 01-320 3301.)

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

International college in the Greater London area requires urgently a Financial Administrative Officer with previous financial and administrative experience and qualifications. This position offers benefits such as free furnished accommodation and board for a single person, average of 6 weeks' holidays per annum and very pleasant working atmosphere within a small but energetic team. Personality and commitment essential. Salary negotiable c £25,000. If interested please write to:

Box 1983 F, The Times

ASSISTANT INSPECTOR
OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Edinburgh based

... to assist in discovering, inspecting and reporting on buildings of special architectural or historic interest, and in making recommendations about their preservation and listing. Work will include preparing reports through research and fieldwork; commenting on plans and proposals from planning and local authorities; attending meetings and conferences.

Candidates must have a thorough knowledge of the history of Scottish architecture. They should normally have an appropriate degree or diploma in architecture, history, fine art, the history of art, or in town and country planning; or have passed (or obtained exemption from) the RIBA Part 2 Examination, or the RTPI Final Examination. Those without such qualification may also be considered if they have wide experience of special value. Valid UK driving licence essential. Starting salary may be above the minimum of the range £4,900—£6,950. Promotion prospects. Non-contributory pension scheme.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 24 October, 1980) write to Scottish Office Personnel Division, Room 110, 16 Waterloo Place, Edinburgh EH1 3DV, or telephone 031-536 8400, ext 5028 or 4317. Please quote ref: G/5453.

Scottish Development Department

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES
COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN MUNICIPALITIES
BRITISH SECTIONS

INFORMATION OFFICER

£5,307—£6,510 (under review)

To join a unit of five staff concerned with organising British local government representation at the Council of European Municipalities and providing an information service on EEC matters. The British Sections serve as the international affairs unit of the local authority associations.

The post would suit a recent graduate with knowledge of the European institutions and a flair for marketing information and public relations. The main duty of the post is the preparation of a monthly bulletin circulated to all local authorities.

Further details and application form from the Executive Secretary, 50, Queen's Gate, London SW1, or Queen's Gate, London SW1, Tel: 01-580 1656. Closing date 13th October, 1980.

FULLY QUALIFIED TEACHER required for children 6-13 (mixed) in Thessaloniki, Greece. Applications are invited from the Secretary of Times Newspapers Limited, copies of which are available in Thessaloniki.

NOTICE
All advertisements are subject to the general conditions of Times Newspapers Limited, copies of which are available in Thessaloniki.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Apex has high hopes for Coombe House

By Peter Wainwright

Apex Properties is small, almost ungauged and with exciting rental prospects. The de Vere Hunt family also owns or controls nearly two-thirds of the shares and over the years has spurned bid approaches.

The latest accounts for the year to March 31 show that the balance sheet value of freehold and leasehold properties has risen by £761,302 to £927m. Mr John de Vere Hunt, chairman, reports that the increase largely reflects the purchase of two freehold warehouse buildings in Worksop, Nottinghamshire.

The last professional valuation of properties was in March 1975. The directors now think that the present market value is roughly £10m more than the balance sheet figures. This information indicates a net asset value of 152p a share or more once the revaluation takes place, at say 172p a share.

The balance sheet is almost ungauged. Shareholders' funds are £8.45m and mortgages are only £1.48m. Moreover the bulk of these are repayable at 72 per cent in 1997. For good measure Apex also

had £1.25m in short term deposits and bank balances last March which indicates the group's financial strength and conservatism.

The two major properties are both in Morden, Surrey. The de Vere Hunt family also owns or controls nearly two-thirds of the shares and over the years has spurned bid approaches.

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Negretti & Zambra is hit by series of losses

Negretti & Zambra is unable to declare dividends on either its 3.5 per cent cumulative preference shares or the 9 per cent convertible cumulative redeemable preference shares. The dividends on these shares were due on September 30 and Oct 31.

The group is prevented from paying dividends under its Articles of Association because of the reduction in the group's distributed reserves in the previous and current financial year.

The group says that consideration will be given to the resumption of dividends when the results for the year to March 31, 1981 are known.

Negretti & Zambra made a £400,000 pretax loss in the year to March 31 and this combined with losses on the disposal of assets led to a £1.65m deduction from consolidated reserves.

The group has incurred further unexpected losses during the first half of the current financial year.

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Negretti & Zambra made a £400,000 pretax loss in the year to March 31 and this combined with losses on the disposal of assets led to a £1.65m deduction from consolidated reserves.

This has inevitably been costly in terms of trading margins and Negretti says the position has been further impaired by a fall in turnover during the second quarter.

However, as a result of the action taken the group is now financially stronger.

Findlay Hardware turned in

pretax loss of £166,000 compared with a profit of £108,000. This was despite a drop in interest charges from £195,000 to £130,000.

Findlay says that a vigorous policy of working capital reduction has been followed and stocks and debtors have been cut by nearly 50%.

This has inevitably been costly in terms of trading margins and Findlay says the position has been further impaired by a fall in turnover during the second quarter.

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One MARKET REPORTS

Iran-Iraq war confuses trading

The Iran-Iraq conflict, already dominated the freight market last week. With claims coming in from both sides, it is not clear what had been agreed. The market was naturally confused. As usual, the state of situation very little was concluded, as charterers, owners and charterers all held off pending the sense of a clear picture. The interest centred on what happened to the Iranian terminals, in particular Hormuz and Kharq, both of which have recently come under intensive damage to oil installations. Some have been suffered by sides.

The weekend approached, and likely that the 10 per cent OPEC cutback in oil production due to come into force October 1 would be postponed indefinitely to take into account the fact that exports from Iran and Iraq will surely curtail for some time. With a peace initiative under way, it is possible a more positive picture forthcoming soon.

Chartering out of the Middle East conflict upon dry

Freight

States Gulf. This voyage was to be followed by 90 days storage with options on a further 105 days at \$13,750 a day. Throughout the rest of the market little overall change was noted. One feature, however, was the period chartering by Pemex, the Mexican state oil company, of four 80,000-tonners for six months' trading, with options on a further six months at between \$5 and \$6.20 a ton. While the influence of the Middle East conflict upon dry

cargo activity was to a much lesser degree than in the tanker market, charterers were nevertheless prepared to take fixtures to that area preferring to await events.

Generally, the volume of chartering last week was reduced in all sections with new business slow to develop. One exception was sugar transactions which included a number of shipments to Russia. This is not surprising, and follows recent substantial purchases made by the Soviet Union, the latest account to around 1.5 million tonnes.

Among the latest requirements for which prompt cover was being sought last week were a 12,000-tonner to move bulk sugar from northern France to the Soviet Baltic or Black Sea and a 10,000-ton vessel from Mozambique to the Mediterranean with options also to the Baltic or Black Sea.

A slight improvement on the United States Gulf to Japan route, was recorded with the business involving a 30,000-ton ship which obtained \$29.25 per metric ton and rated 'AAA' by Moody's and Standard and Poor's, fell to \$25.50 offered to yield to 12.82 per cent.

Technicians say that when prime quality issues come under particular pressure in a downturn, a reversal often occurs soon afterwards. High quality issues are usually sold only under stress and, once this source of supply is exhausted, the market can recover, technicians argue.

"I think we are seeing some real values among the blown-out issues so I would not be surprised to see the market act better," says Mr William Stoen, an executive of Eurobond.

David Robison

Sharp fall could be due to an upturn

International dollar bond prices fell sharply last week, but market technicians have begun to look for a recovery.

Until recently, medium-grade note and bond issues have taken the brunt of the selling pressure, while longer-term prime quality issues have been less. However, last week it was the reverse. Some of the Eurobond market's most honoured names were treated like villains.

For instance, Continental Illinois' 9.75 notes of July 1, 1985, fell 1.75 last week to 87.25 per cent offered to yield 13.03 per cent at maturity. A 9.5 per cent coupon issue

Norway's Export Credit Agency issue on July 15 and rated 'AAA' by Moody's and Standard and Poor's, fell to \$25.50 offered to yield to 12.82 per cent.

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Euromarkets

international bond market than in the domestic United States bond market.

In any case, there has not been much evidence that investors have been drawn into the market so far by the rise in yields. Syndicate sources said much of a \$50m, three-year Swedish Export Credit Corporation issue was left with the underwriters after it was priced at 99.75, bearing 12.0 per cent to yield 12.10 per cent. Indeed, to get the paper moving, some underwriters were reportedly selling the offering at around 97 to yield 12.28 per cent.

Euromarkets

Euromarkets

Natural rubber gaining ground ahead of new agreement

Chase Manhattan in charge of

Eurobond trading and sales.

"With yields moving through the 13 per cent level in several instances, we would be quite comfortable with new purchase commitments made at this time," added Mr Ian Kerr, a vice-president of Kidder Peabody International in charge of Eurobond research.

However, Mr Kerr tempered his enthusiasm by noting that the market could face some supply pressures from new issues by United States companies because financing costs are currently cheaper in the

International Study Group, Mr Paul Leong, Malaysian Minister of Primary Industries pointed out that total natural rubber supply will grow to 4.8m tonnes by 1985 and 5.7m tonnes by 1990 on the basis of the recent market growth rate of 3.8 per cent.

Demand in the 1980s is

expected to grow at a 5 per cent rate despite the general economic slowdown. This suggests demand levels of 19m tonnes by 1985 and 24m by 1990 for both natural and synthetic rubbers.

In the short-term, however, there will be a squeeze on supply. New plantings take six years before they start producing, and nine to 16 years to reach optimum production. So the current increase in new plantings in Asia, Africa, Central and South America, for example, will take time before they affect supply significantly.

The International Synthetic Rubber Producers Association puts total world rubber demand at 12.9m tonnes for this year with natural rubber accounting

for 60 per cent of rubber usage. Even here there is a switch to radial tyres from cross-ply tyres, which contain about 25 to 30 per cent natural rubber, while cross-ply tyres contain only 15 to 18 per cent. Hence the closure of cross-ply tyre plants in the United States and Europe in the past two years will have little effect on natural rubber consumption.

Furthermore, current scepticism over the automobile industry need not necessarily be regarded as a prohibitive setback for rubber. A major percentage of new tyre production goes into vehicles on the road. As Mr Tony Buckingham of Edward Tull & Co, rubber traders, pointed out, with the switch to radial tyres, world rubber consumption will continue to rise for vehicles in use, despite the recessionary effect of new car production.

A further option for natural rubber is to be found in the fact that the United States wishes to increase its natural rubber stockpile to 500,000 tonnes from 122,000 tonnes. Rubber is a strategic material and the stockpiles of the United Kingdom, Italy and Australia were depleted by 1971. In current circumstances, this requirement could increase sharply.

For this reason the United States played a major role in the conception of the new International Rubber Agreement to ensure supplies and can be expected to ratify. Could it be that the producers, after the current success of the International Rubber Study Group in Kuala Lumpur this week, might go to the IRA Convention in Geneva later in October demanding an increase in the intervention price range in the light of current market prices? Perhaps the United States is approaching ratification cautiously to see what happens.

Meanwhile, in the market place with improved demand in the United States and the Soviet Union looking for supplies in Kuala Lumpur aided by the Middle East situation, prices have moved upward.

Sean Conway

Key list of fixed interest stocks

	Latest price	Prev. price		Latest price	Prev. price		Latest price	Prev. price	
Queen's Deb	677.0	677.0		Do 8 and 10 Deb 1984	66.0		Do 10 Deb 1984	66.0	
Hedge's Deb	68.0	67.0		Do 10 Deb 1985	67.0		Do 10 Deb 1985	67.0	
Do 10 Deb 1986	67.0	67.0		Do 10 Deb 1987	67.0		Do 10 Deb 1987	67.0	
Do 10 Deb 1988	67.0	67.0		Do 10 Deb 1989	67.0		Do 10 Deb 1989	67.0	
Do 10 Deb 1990	67.0	67.0		Do 10 Deb 1991	67.0		Do 10 Deb 1991	67.0	
Do 10 Deb 1992	67.0	67.0		Do 10 Deb 1993	67.0		Do 10 Deb 1993	67.0	
Do 10 Deb 1994	67.0	67.0		Do 10 Deb 1995	67.0		Do 10 Deb 1995	67.0	
Do 10 Deb 1996	67.0	67.0		Do 10 Deb 1997	67.0		Do 10 Deb 1997	67.0	
Do 10 Deb 1998	67.0	67.0		Do 10 Deb 1999	67.0		Do 10 Deb 1999	67.0	
Do 10 Deb 2000	67.0	67.0		Do 10 Deb 2001	67.0		Do 10 Deb 2001	67.0	
Do 10 Deb 2002	67.0	67.0		Do 10 Deb 2003	67.0		Do 10 Deb 2003	67.0	
Do 10 Deb 2004	67.0	67.0		Do 10 Deb 2005	67.0		Do 10 Deb 2005	67.0	
Do 10 Deb 2006	67.0	67.0		Do 10 Deb 2007	67.0		Do 10 Deb 2007	67.0	
Do 10 Deb 2008	67.0	67.0		Do 10 Deb 2009	67.0		Do 10 Deb 2009	67.0	
Do 10 Deb 2010	67.0	67.0		Do 10 Deb 2011	67.0		Do 10 Deb 2011	67.0	
Do 10 Deb 2012	67.0	67.0		Do 10 Deb 2013	67.0		Do 10 Deb 2013	67.0	
Do 10 Deb 2014	67.0	67.0		Do 10 Deb 2015	67.0		Do 10 Deb 2015	67.0	
Do 10 Deb 2016	67.0	67.0		Do 10 Deb 2017	67.0		Do 10 Deb 2017	67.0	
Do 10 Deb 2018	67.0	67.0		Do 10 Deb 2019	67.0		Do 10 Deb 2019	67.0	
Do 10 Deb 2020	67.0	67.0		Do 10 Deb 2021	67.0		Do 10 Deb 2021	67.0	
Do 10 Deb 2022	67.0	67.0		Do 10 Deb 2023	67.0		Do 10 Deb 2023	67.0	
Do 10 Deb 2024	67.0	67.0		Do 10 Deb 2025	67.0		Do 10 Deb 2025	67.0	
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Do 10 Deb 2028	67.0	67.0		Do 10 Deb 2029	67.0		Do 10 Deb 2029	67.0	
Do 10 Deb 2030	67.0	67.0		Do 10 Deb 2031	67.0		Do 10 Deb 2031	67.0	
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Do 10 Deb 2048	67.0	67.0		Do 10 Deb 2049	67.0		Do 10 Deb 2049	67.0	
Do 10 Deb 2050	67.0	67.0		Do 10 Deb 2051	67.0		Do 10 Deb 2051	67.0	
Do 10 Deb 2052	67.0	67.0		Do 10 Deb 2053	67.0		Do 10 Deb 2053	67.0	
Do 10 Deb 2054	67.0	67.0		Do 10 Deb 2055	67.0		Do 10 Deb 2055	67.0	
Do 10 Deb 2056	67.0	67.0		Do 10 Deb 2057	67.0		Do 10 Deb 2057	67.0	
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PERSONAL CHOICE

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Dear

TELEVISION

BBC 1

6.40 am Open University: *Conventional Can* at the BBC 7.05 am *Kenya: Land of the Lions* (Kenya: Closets down at 7.55). 9.00 For Schools: *Colleges: A Good Job with Prospects*. 9.30 *Fertilization*. 9.52 *Communicate* 10.15 *Musical Sounds in the Country*. 10.35 *Trigonometry* 2: 1.15 *Kenya: Land of the Lions* (Kenya: Closets down at 11.40). 11.40 *General Studies: Student Life*. Closets down at 12.05 pm.

12.45 News. 1.00 *Pebble Mill at One*. Included in today's programme is Bob Geddes' advice on car maintenance. 1.45 *Camberwick Green* (x).

2.01 *For Schools: Words and Pictures*: 1.18 *The Horse at War*. 2.40 *Hi, look for a Cup*. Closets down at 3.00.

3.15 *Star of France*. A repeat of yesterday's programme introduced by Gerry Moate from the Parish Church of Kendal in Cumbria. 3.35 *Play School*: 4.20 *Witches' Witch*.

Cartoon (r). 4.25 *Jackanory*. This is the first of a new series and we see the debut of the programme's new instant. *Smash*, a cartoon by the hand of a cartoonist and a journalist and they will present stories written by them selves. 4.40 *Java of the Jungle* (x). 5.05 *Blue Peter*. Following the film showing Shirley Green and Simon Groom covered in paint, Shirley goes to the *Java* studio to paint a scene from the film *Java Shining*, the new Shirley Kuriwick film and her next movie. 5.10 *Step This Way*. The third of five programmes explaining the modern dance steps. Tonight we learn the mysteries of Rock and Roll. 5.15 *News* read by Richard Baker. 5.55 *Nationwide*. Including the weekly feature *Watching*. 6.05 *Angels*. The threat of the closure of the hospital is still very much in the air and the kitchen staff are still on strike. 7.20 *Star Trek*. The ultimate computer is used on board the starship *Enterprise* during a simulated alien invasion and seems to justify its name. But then something goes

3.19 *Fantomas*. Richard Lintern

reports on the internecine bairnes which are besetting the Labour Party.

5.00 *News* with Jan Leeming. 5.15 *Carry On Gertie* (1973) starring Sidnei James and Joan Sims. The usual sort of comedy with double entendres.

5.30 *8.30 Headlines*. 5.35 *The Week on 4*.

5.45 *Serial: Loosely Engaged*, by Christopher Matthew (1).

5.50 *News*.

5.55 *Local Service*.

6.00 *Gentleman and Ladies* (11).

6.15 *News Briefing*.

6.19 *Farming Week*.

6.20 *Local Service*.

6.25 *8.30 News*.

6.30 *8.30 Headlines*.

6.35 *The Week on 4*.

6.45 *Serial: Loosely Engaged*, by Christopher Matthew (1).

6.50 *News*.

6.55 *Starts the Week*.

7.00 *News*.

7.05 *Records*: A. Thomas, Verdi, Spohr, Barroki.

7.10 *Records*: Fauré, Liszt, Hartig.

7.15 *Records*: Brahms (Op 35).

7.20 *8.30 News*.

7.25 *It Makes Me Laugh*.

7.30 *Weather*.

7.35 *Local Service*.

7.40 *8.30 News*.

7.45 *8.30 Headlines*.

7.50 *Play: Don Quixote*, adapted by John Arden, pr 1.

7.55 *News*.

8.00 *Starts the Week*.

8.05 *8.30 News*.

8.10 *8.30 Headlines*.

8.15 *Local Service*.

8.20 *8.30 News*.

8.25 *8.30 News*.

8.30 *8.30 News*.

8.35 *8.30 Headlines*.

8.40 *8.30 News*.

8.45 *8.30 Headlines*.

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8.58 *8.30 News*.

9.00 *8.30 Headlines*.

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And he dreamed, and behold
an ladder set on the earth, and
behold the angels of God
ascending and descending on it.

GENESIS 28:12

BIRTHS

BANKS.—On September 23rd.
John and Mary, daughter, Carlotta
Frances.

BROWN.—On September 23rd.
to Annie, new Nielsen, and David
—son (Sam).

MULLEN.—On September 19th to
Gillian and Trevor, a daughter.

THOMAS.—On September 20th,
1980, in Marie and Mark, a son,

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THOMAS.—On September 20th,
1980, in Marie and Mark, a son,

Matthew.

BIRTHS

BANKS.—On September 23rd.
John and Mary, daughter, Carlotta
Frances.

BROWN.—On September 23rd.
to Annie, new Nielsen, and David
—son (Sam).

MULLEN.—On September 19th to
Gillian and Trevor, a daughter.

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